

# Annual report 2024



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## REPORT OF PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

### 1. 2024, Paris' year, what a year for Sport!

2024 concludes an Olympic cycle that has been as rewarding as it has been challenging in many aspects. It started with an unprecedented and terrible pandemic crisis, the geopolitical landscape is marked by a series of significant, interconnected crises with conflicts and wars in several regions, fuelling humanitarian tragedies, the climate change crisis is more and more visible and its impacts are critical, and the global economic instability continues to disrupt societies.

The world of sport is not immune to these realities. In many ways, it is confronted with these global struggles. Not only it is not immune to them, but also it has a responsibility to help in addressing them. In an increasingly divided global landscape, sport continues to demonstrate its extraordinary power to unite.

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games exceeded the most optimistic expectations. In a particularly complex and adverse context, they offered a remarkable interlude, a breath of fresh air in which sport, athletes, and the emotions they inspire brought people together in a spirit of passion, inclusion, and shared humanity.

While sport alone cannot resolve the world's problems, it is increasingly clear that it can help address some of them, fully aligned with the Olympic Movement's vision of building a better world through sport.

The year 2024 will be remembered for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. All sports on the programme received unprecedented media attention and great promotion. And even though rowing did not enjoy the iconic backdrops of Versailles or the Grand Palais, and even though the Eiffel Tower was not visible from Vaires-sur-Marne, our sport delivered outstanding competitions.

First and foremost, I would like to salute the rowers who inspired and moved us with their exceptional performances in front of a large and enthusiastic audience. Although we had concerns about potential weather challenges, whether it is extreme heat, cross-wind or like at the World Under 19 Championships in 2023, proved to be nearly ideal for both the Olympic and Paralympic regattas.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to this success: the Paris 2024 organising teams— and particularly the rowing team, led with dedication by Pascale Bouton, and the World Rowing staff, whose commitment and

hard work were instrumental. What an extraordinary journey we have travelled together to reach this milestone. I am equally grateful to the volunteers and to the officials, both International and National Technical Officials, whose professionalism and passion ensured the smooth and fair delivery of the events.

The Rowing season was certainly not limited to the Olympics. In all our three disciplines, the World Rowing events were successful, despite many challenges. Here again, my appreciation goes to all: the athletes, their teams, the Organising Committees, the World Rowing staff and all the contributors.

### 2. The Olympic Movement

With the election of Kirsty Coventry as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the IOC Session held in March 2025 in Costa Navarino, Greece, the Olympic Movement has entered a new era. Her appointment marks a historic moment, bringing a fresh perspective shaped by her experience as an Olympic champion, sports leader, and advocate for athletes.

There is much to be said about the legacy of President Thomas Bach, whose tenure was marked by an unwavering commitment to the values of Olympism, even amidst significant global challenges. From the unprecedented postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to the complex geopolitical tensions surrounding the war in Ukraine and the handling of Russia systemic doping violations, his leadership was tested repeatedly.

Under his guidance, the IOC undertook substantial and far-reaching reforms. The launch of Olympic Agenda 2020, followed by Olympic Agenda 2020+5, set a new course for the Movement. These reforms have strengthened the foundation of the Olympic Games and ensured that sport remains a force for good in an evolving world.

On behalf of World Rowing, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to President Thomas Bach for his exceptional service and steadfast support for the Olympic Movement, and in particular, for his encouragement and recognition of the sport of rowing throughout his mandate.

The election process itself has been an excellent exercise and opportunity to reflect on the future. The campaign engaged seven candidates, each of whom contributed meaningfully by sharing their vision, values, and ambitions for the future of Olympism. This open and forward-looking dialogue enriched the global conversation about the direction of sport and the role of the Olympic Movement in a rapidly changing world.

I have every confidence in the leadership of President Kirsty Coventry. Her deep experience as an athlete and her long-

standing commitment to the Olympic ideals equip her to guide the IOC with wisdom, integrity, and a strong sense of purpose. World Rowing stands ready to support and contribute actively to advancing the Olympic Movement's long-term mission and priorities.

### 3. Governance

The 2025 Quadrennial Congress, a major milestone in the life of our organisation and a cornerstone of our governance framework, was held in Lausanne, the Olympic Capital, in March 2025. I would like to acknowledge the success of this important edition, which led to the adoption of a number of significant amendments and devolutions to our Statutes and Rules of Racing.

This outcome was not the result of chance, but of a constructive and inclusive process. A sustained consultative approach was undertaken with our Member Federations throughout the development of these proposals. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Governance Working Group, led by Annamarie Phelps, and to the Rules of Racing Working Group, chaired by Kris Grudt, for their outstanding contributions and dedication throughout this process.

While I will return later in this report to specific changes made to the Rules of Racing, I would like to highlight one matter addressed under the Statutes. A proposal submitted by four Member Federations regarding Article 47 (formerly Article 49) was withdrawn following a constructive exchange and the agreement to form a dedicated working group to further examine the question of continental diversity within the Executive Committee. An ad hoc working group will explore this issue in greater depth and may submit a more refined proposal. The 2025 Quadrennial Congress approved the Council's recommendation to give the 2025 Ordinary Congress the authority to amend Article 47.

#### The Executive Committee

As stipulated throughout the Statutes, the Executive Committee bears the responsibility for making decisions on behalf of the organisation when required, and these decisions are final. Only the Congress (Article 24, 2.2) or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), with respect to the Rules of Racing, may overturn such decisions.

It must be emphasised that every decision taken by the Executive Committee is guided solely by the principles of respect, fairness, and the long-term interests of our sport and our organisation. Within the timeframes available and based on the information at hand, we always aim to make informed, balanced, and values-driven decisions. Our priority is, and will always remain, the interest of the athletes, the integrity of our sport, and the good governance of our organisation. The Executive Committee does not seek the easiest path, but rather the one that best serves the present and future of rowing. This often means taking difficult but necessary decisions, always in good faith and guided by our shared values.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Executive Committee members for their admirable dedication. I had the opportunity to pay tribute to Rosie Mayglothling and Patrick

Rombaut who left their positions in World Rowing including their Executive Committee positions. I reiterate my heartfelt thanks for their exceptional service and dedication to our sport, and I am confident their contributions will continue in new forms. Following the recommendation of the Council, the Congress elected Guin Batten and Mathias Binder to take over. I warmly welcome them to the Executive Committee and look forward to working closely together.

#### Governance and Judicial Matters

The right to challenge decisions is a fundamental one. Our Statutes and Rules of Racing clearly define the judicial bodies and relevant procedures for addressing sanctions, complaints, and appeals. The Executive Committee serves as the final internal authority; beyond that, recourse is possible only through the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), an independent institution recognised by the IOC and the broader sporting community.

While this level has very rarely been reached in the history of our sport, the last case being in 2016 in connection with the eligibility of Russian athletes for the Rio Olympic Games in the context of the systemic doping scandal in Russia, World Rowing faced two appeals to CAS in 2024. Without going into the specifics of these cases, I would like to reflect on the broader implications. Regardless of the outcome of such proceedings, the resource burden, both human and financial, is considerable. In an era of growing judicialisation across sport, the strain on organisational resources is becoming a matter of concern.

### 4. Our mission: to ensure the best future for Rowing

#### Development of the three disciplines and Strategic projects

To simply survive in a complex environment and extremely competitive World of Sport, there is no other way than to consistently adapt, improve, evolve and even when necessary embrace changes. We cannot rely on the past to secure our position in the future and our strong historical presence in the Olympic Movement is not granted for ever. It was precisely the ambition of our Olympic Strategy, that has been quite successful so far in securing our Athletes quota and programme, with 15 events at Los Angeles Olympic Games 2028 and 5 at the Paralympic Games. This is certainly not the end as we enter the next Olympic Cycle, but the evolution of our Olympic Strategy to continuously adapt.

As presented already, the sport of Rowing is made of its three disciplines, quite different obviously when it comes to history, background and challenges, but with a same ambition to continue to develop and grow the rowing community and reach new audiences.

#### The Strategic Event Calendar Review project

As for Classic Rowing, a significant first step has been reached with the 2025 Quadrennial Congress adoptions of the new Programme at the World Championships (Rule 25) and the new progression system (elimination of the repechage). The experiment to reduce the intervals between the World Cups from three to two weeks is equally part of the concrete changes to address some key challenges and issues related to our events, including lack of participation, costs and

complexity, attractiveness for the stakeholders, namely cities and organising committees, spectators, broadcasters and media.

A regular update was proposed to our Member Federations all along the journey, including at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress in March and another step is expected at the 2025 Ordinary Congress in Shanghai. I would like to once again thank all the contributors. I recognise that having all the stakeholders involved in the discussions brings certainly diversity in the points of view, multiple perspectives which at the end makes the equation to solve quite complicated. One thing is for sure: we cannot tick all the boxes at the same time, and changes require effort and willingness.

I would like to insist on a particular point that I believe to be crucial. The future of the Sport and its position in the World of Sport mainly lies on the credibility and attractiveness of our events, on the promotion of the athletes. More data, more stories to tell, easier access to and greater visibility of the rowers are part of the equation and certainly have an impact on the preparation phase, on the training programme compared to the competition. I very often hear from the national teams that we need more promotion, but it can only be with the participation of the rowers to the international events and their accessibility to the media. The group is working on different projects to help in this regard. We all look forward to the best outcome, but at the end of the day the final response will remain in the hands of the Member Federations.

#### Mixed events, an opportunity

I would like to welcome the decision of the 2025 Quadrennial Congress to include two mixed events in the programme of the World Rowing Championships. This idea has finally come to fruition, becoming the logical next step in adapting our sport to modern society. Having already been tried out in some federations, and with great success for the mixed eight at the last Pan-American Games, we are also hoping for a promising debut at the 2025 World Championships in Shanghai. Our proposal to include this additional event in the Olympic programme at Los Angeles 2028 was ultimately unsuccessful, as it was not yet included in our World Championships when the LA 2028 programme was finalised and approved. However, the enthusiasm behind this proposal is such that I have no doubt it will be included in the future, provided we demonstrate its credibility. I strongly encourage the Member Federations to adhere and make the most of the opportunity. Only very few sports can present genuine mixed-events.

As we get more experience and learn from our events, we continue to evolve and adapt the Rules of racing for Coastal Rowing in both its two formats to make it simpler, more attractive and more accessible. It is great to see the growing interest in more and more federations and, as for the Beach Sprint, we look forward to the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Despite the non-conclusive plan for external investors to support the creation of a Beach Sprint League, the potential of the discipline remains very high and it doesn't impact our ambition to continue to develop and grow the discipline, to reach new territories and new audience. With the Beach Sprint format making its Olympic debut in Los Angeles 2028, it gives us a fantastic opportunity that we can't miss. This is largely shared by all stakeholders, notably the broadcasters who very much believe in the concept.

No bid was finalised for the 2025 World Rowing Coastal Championships and only the 2025 World Rowing Beach

Sprint were eventually attributed to the Brazilian Rowing Federation and Rio de Janeiro. Every effort is made to present an alternative following the non-expected withdrawal of the event by the Brazilians and, based on the interest shown, I am convinced that an excellent solution will be found.

#### Indoor/Connected rowing: a bright future

The 142nd IOC Session in Paris marked a historic moment with the official approval of the Olympic Esports Games, the inaugural edition of which will take place in 2027 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This decision represents a transformative step in bringing Esports under the Olympic umbrella and opens new avenues for engagement, innovation, and inclusion.

With indoor rowing being one of the most natural and measurable forms of connected physical activity, World Rowing has fully embraced this opportunity. We have submitted a formal proposal for the inclusion of Indoor Rowing in the Olympic Esports Games, a move that would position all three of our disciplines within the Olympic ecosystem.

The global presence of rowing machines in fitness centres, homes, and clubs presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect a vast and diverse community to our sport. The potential for growth, engagement, and visibility is immense. While we are fully aware of the technical and organisational challenges that come with such an endeavour, we believe the long-term benefits are well worth the investment.

From a competition standpoint, our ambition is not limited to the traditional 2,000-metre racing format. The VERSA challenge, which combine performance, adaptability, and excitement, are already adding new dimensions to our events and attracting a broader range of participants.

I would also like to highlight and express our appreciation for our partnership with the Japan Sport Council (JSC). For the second consecutive year, World Rowing has co-hosted the Virtual Sport Forum in Tokyo alongside JSC. This platform has become an important space for exchange with the wider Esports community. The theme of this year's forum, "Exploring the Opportunities Emerging from the Olympic Esports Games", resonated strongly with our objectives and vision for the future of indoor and connected rowing.

## 5. Finance

A detailed financial report from the Treasurer, along with the auditors' report, is available in the Congress Agenda Papers. I do not intend to go into detail here but would like to emphasise one key point: as a not-for-profit organisation, all of our financial resources are dedicated to the development and promotion of the sport of rowing.

The success of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games has confirmed our share of Olympic revenues, with a modest increase compared to Tokyo. Certainly a positive outcome, however, due to an unfavourable exchange rate with the US dollar and the impact of significant inflation throughout this Olympic cycle, the actual value of these revenues has stagnated, if not declined in real terms.

To mitigate financial risk and strengthen long-term sustainability, we continue to pursue various initiatives aimed at diversifying our sources of income. In this context, the extensive discussions

around membership fees, and the ultimate decision taken at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress, represent an important contribution from the Member Federations. While I fully acknowledge the sensitivity of this topic, I would refer to the documentation provided at the time, which explains the rationale behind the adjustment. Once again, I express my sincere thanks to the delegates and Member Federations who supported this decision by a strong majority.

## **6. My appreciation to the World Rowing staff and to the volunteers**

The Executive Director has pursued the adaptation of the organisation to better position it to fulfil its mission with greater efficiency and impact.

I would like to thank and express my sincere appreciation to the Executive Director and the entire staff for their remarkable engagement. In a year marked by intensity, complexity, and the demands of an Olympic and Paralympic season, we have not been spared challenges. Yet throughout, the staff has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a deep commitment to the values of our sport. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Director and to every member of the team for their remarkable engagement. It is a privilege to work alongside individuals of such professionalism, dedication, and integrity, together forming a strong, cohesive, and highly capable team.

Equally vital to our success is the immense contribution of our volunteers. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Council for their continued dedication to the governance and development of our organisation. Their guidance and commitment are deeply appreciated.

I also wish to recognise and thank the members of our Commissions and Working Groups, the many volunteers at our events, and the officials. Their time, expertise, and passion are indispensable. They are the foundation of our collective efforts and the driving force behind our ability to serve the sport of rowing globally. We are immensely grateful for their continued support and engagement.

## **7. To conclude**

It is a great honour for me to serve our sport and our organisation. The role of President is undoubtedly demanding, particularly in the global context, but I feel genuinely privileged to carry out this mission alongside such dedicated and inspiring individuals.

Over time, I have developed strong relationships within the Olympic Movement and the broader world of sport, and I remain fully committed to representing rowing and defending its interests.

Serving as a member of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee's Executive Board and Council was a truly enriching experience. I now look forward to contributing to the Council for the Alpes Françaises 2030, which will oversee the delivery of the 2030 Winter Olympic Games. I continue to represent ASOIF on the WADA Foundation Board and was pleased to be elected in June 2025 to the ASOIF Council, an opportunity to further advocate for the interests of International Federations. I also have the privilege of serving on the IOC's Coordination Commission for Brisbane 2032 and the Sustainability and Legacy Commission.

As we conclude the Olympic cycle, elections will be held at the 2025 Ordinary Congress in Shanghai in accordance with our Statutes. My motivation remains strong, and after thoughtful consideration, I have decided to stand before Congress as a candidate for President for the 2025–2029 term. I shared my vision for the future and areas for development in the form of an interview that was appended to the Agenda papers.

I would like to close this report by expressing World Rowing's pride in receiving the 2025 World Fair Play Trophy, an award shared with the athletes and coaches of the Men's Single Sculls Olympic Final A. It relates to the crucial decision to postpone the Olympic final as one of the rowers, delayed by a broken-down transport bus, was unable to arrive on time.

I would like to recognise the remarkable solidarity shown by the finalists, which reflects the highest values of our sport and of fair play, values that continue to define rowing on and off the water.

## REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT Tricia Smith (CAN)

The role of the Vice President is to:

- Carry out such duties as are delegated by the President
- Represent World Rowing when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee
- Work on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of World Rowing or its relations with other bodies
- Oversee the work of the Development Programme
- Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

Paris was extraordinary. Congratulations to all who participated, in particular, of course, the athletes. As Vice President I supported the President, the Executive Committee and Executive Director, in all matters related to the Games including the policies framing any decisions regarding participation of athletes holding a RUS or BLR passport.

The Executive Committee continued to meet twice monthly and continued to focus on the work being done to promote our sport in all its forms, additional opportunities for funding, partners and sponsorships while maintaining oversight on the existing programs, revenues, and overall budget. Confirmation that the new Olympic program includes Beach Sprints provides exciting opportunities, as does, for Indoor Rowing, plans for sport-active E Games.

I was also a member of the Governance Working Group whose report was presented and largely approved at the 2024 Extraordinary Congress. The question of more geographically diverse representation within World Rowing, particularly on the Executive Committee was raised by a group of members and put off to the next Congress. I am co-chairing a working group, which includes those members, with the goal of examining the issue and proposing a recommendation at the 2025 Congress in Shanghai.

I have decided not to run for re-election as Vice president, and this will be my last Congress with World Rowing. Accordingly, I hope you will indulge me to add a little beyond the norm, to my report. First, I wish to thank you for your trust in me over these past many years. I cannot in this short report begin to describe all the changes I have seen or been part of since that time but will mention a few highlights.

I started as an athlete, participating in the 1976 Olympics, the first Games where women were allowed to compete in rowing, then participated in all World Championships and subsequent Olympic Games until I retired in 1988 (except for the Moscow Games, where we qualified but Canada boycotted.) I won seven World Championship medals, one silver Olympic medal

and a gold Commonwealth Games medal (the last time rowing was in the Games in 1986).

As I was one of the "western" athletes who had some success during this time, Ingrid Dieterle, a member of the FISA Women's Commission, recruited me in 1992 to become a member of the Commission. My first Worlds with FISA were in 1993 in Prague and it was eye opening to see our sport from another perspective. I eventually became Chair of the Commission, then a member of the Executive, then eventually Vice President in 2013. At my first Games in 1976 20% of the athletes at the Games were women, my last Games in 1988, just over 27% and finally with IOC's help, 50% in Paris. I loved racing 1000 meters when I started, ignorant to the fact that many in charge didn't think women could race 2000 meters, (see history project below), but I recognised, as an athlete, the reasoning to change to 2000.

I am particularly proud of leading key changes for women in FISA, first in restructuring the Commission to be more integrated within all the Commissions of FISA, for proposing and then obtaining support for the History of Women in Rowing project (by PhD student Amanda Schweinbenz) an invaluable record and compilation of the history of women in rowing, data keeping (particularly managed by the women in the Youth Commission taking over from Johan Blondelle) advocating for gender equality on Commissions, in governance and in leadership, at events, including the first Youth Olympics, developing strong allies in the FISA leadership, working to establish the building blocks for a targeted women's development program for all aspects of rowing, including leadership, which is now world leading, along with the full development program, thanks in particular to Sheila Stephens and Daniela Gomes and of course Thor Nilson and Matt Smith.

I am also extremely proud of the approach we have always taken in the work we have done at FISA (now World Rowing), always leading with our values, integrity, fairness, athlete centred. Much was challenging, including the work we did within the FISA Executive in anti-doping, hearing doping cases and writing decisions pro bono, for the benefit of our athletes and our sport. Cases which are now heard by CAS were argued before the Executive Committee with full due process and reasoned decisions, appealable to CAS. The principled position taken by FISA regarding allowing only limited RUS participation in the 2016 Rio Games due to allegations of state-run doping, was challenged by the RUS, unsuccessfully, at the CAS Ad hoc Court in Rio.

More recently, the integrity and diligence of FISA as an IF was second to none, in considering participation of athletes with RUS and BLR passports following the invasion of UKR and contributed to the ultimate IOC position.

There are many other memories but mostly I will remember the joy, the fun, the passion for our sport shared by everyone involved. It has been such a privilege to be part of FISA, to sit with people like our President Jean Christophe, people of integrity, people who live by their values, and where we can be proud of the work we have done and the decisions we have made, together.

I have continued and will continue to represent the interests of international sport and of World Rowing, where appropriate, in the numerous other sport-related meetings I attended and will attend as Canadian NOC President, ANOC EB Member, Panam Sports EB Member, ICAS Member, and IOC Member, including the fight for clean sport, safe sport, the promotion of women in sport, and promotion of rowing in the many regional Games and overall building a better world through sport. I continue as a member of the IOC Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission, the Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, and the IOC Legal Affairs Commission. In 2024 more of the meetings were held in person. A list of some of the key meetings is set out below.

### Meetings and events attended in 2024:

#### World Rowing Activity:

- January 10, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting, virtual
- January 27, 2024, World Rowing Americas Call
- February 7-11, 2024, Executive Committee and Council Meetings, Lausanne, Switzerland
- March 14-18, 2024, 2024 World Rowing Americas Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- March 22, 2024, 2025 & 2026 World Cup Bid call
- March 27, 2024, Executive Committee call
- March 28, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- April 6, 2024, GWG Update call
- May 1, 2024, Executive Committee call
- May 6, 2024, Virtual Council Meeting
- May 7, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- May 17, 2024, Extraordinary Executive Committee Call
- May 19-26, 2024, 2024 World Rowing Final Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regatta & World Rowing Cup II, Lucerne, Switzerland
- May 24, 2024, TKM Meeting and Dinner, Lucerne, Switzerland
- May 29, 2024, LA28 venue validation for Coastal Rowing (Beach Sprints)
- May 31, 2024, Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games call
- June 5, 2024, Executive Committee call
- June 18, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- June 19, 2024, Executive Committee call
- June 25, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- June 27, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- July 3, 2024, Executive Committee call
- July 16, 2024, Virtual Council Meeting: SEAP Attributions + other topics

- July 17, 2024, Executive Committee call
- July 29-August 3, 2024, 2024 Paris Olympics Rowing Competitions
- August 16-26, 2024, World Rowing Championships, St. Catharines, ON
- September 4, 2024, Executive Committee call
- September 13, 2024, Council Meeting call re Membership Fees Increase
- September 18, 2024, Executive Committee call
- September 23, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- September 24, 2024, GWG preparation for Congress 2025 call
- October 16, 2024, Executive Committee call
- October 28, 2024, Member Federations call for 2024 Ordinary Congress and 2025 Quadrennial Congress
- November 1, 2024, Council call
- November 6, 2024, 2024 Pre-annual congress virtual Council meeting
- November 8-10, 2024, Executive Committee Meetings, Seville, Spain
- November 8, 2024, Dinner with Spanish Federation, The Government of Andalusia, Sevilla City Hall, and Andalusian Federation, Seville, Spain
- November 9, 2024, 2024 Betis-Seville Regatta, Seville, Spain
- November 16, 2024, 2024 World Rowing Congress, virtual
- November 20, 2024, Executive Committee call
- December 9, 2024, Executive Committee call
- December 11, 2024, Membership Fees Working Group call
- December 14, 2024, GWG call
- December 18, 2024, Council call and Executive Committee Extraordinary call
- December 20, 2024, Membership Fees Working Group call

#### International Work:

- January 2, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Committee Call
- January 11, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Committee meeting, virtual participation
- January 17-25, 2024, Gangwon Youth Olympics, Gangwon Korea
- February 15, 2024, IOC Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 call
- February 19-24, 2024, IOC Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 meetings and venue tours, Venice, Italy
- February 27, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board meeting, virtual participation
- March 3-8, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board Inspection Commission site visits, Lima, Peru and Asunción, Paraguay
- March 9, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board

- Inspection Commission Evaluation meeting, Miami, Florida
- March 11, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board Meeting, Miami, Florida
- March 12, 2024, Panam Sports Extraordinary General Assembly, Miami, Florida
- April 26, 2024, Olympic Flame Handover Ceremony, Athens, Greece
- April 27, 2024, ANOC Executive Council Meeting and Dinner, Athens, Greece
- May 21, 2024, IOC Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission call
- May 27, 2024, ICAS Dinner, Rome, Italy
- May 28, 2024, ICAS Meeting and Dinner, Rome, Italy
- June 11, 2024, IOC Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 call
- June 24, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board Extraordinary Meeting, virtual participation
- June 26, 2024, IOC Members' Briefing, virtual participation
- July 21, 2024, IOC President's Press Conference, Paris, France
- July 22, 2024, IOC's presentation to Head of State, Paris, France
- July 22, 2024, IOC Session Opening Ceremony, Paris, France
- July 23-24, 2024, IOC Session, Paris, France
- July 24, 2024, ICAS Reception, Paris, France
- July 24, 2024, US Olympic Family Reception, Paris, France
- July 25-August 10, 2024, Various Olympic Sporting Events, Paris, France
- July 25, 2024, IOC Sport for Sustainable Development Session, Paris, France
- July 25, 2024, IOC President's Dinner, Paris, France
- July 26, 2024, COC Opening Press Conference and MOC Ribbon-cutting event, Maison du Canada, Paris, France
- July 26, 2024, Paris 2024 Opening Ceremony, Paris, France
- August 10, 2024, IOC Session, Paris, France
- August 11, 2024, Paris 2024 Closing Ceremony, Paris, France
- September 29-October 6, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board Meeting and General Assembly, Asuncion, Paraguay
- October 8, 2024, Call with IOC Presidential Candidate
- October 17, 2024, ANOC Extraordinary Virtual meeting
- October 28, 2024, IOC Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 virtual meeting
- October 28-29, 2024, ANOC Executive Council Meeting, Cascais, Portugal
- October 30, 2024, Meeting with IOC Presidential Candidate, Cascais, Portugal
- October 30-31, 2024, XXVII ANOC General Assembly, Cascais, Portugal
- October 30, 2024, Meeting with IOC Presidential Candidate, Cascais, Portugal
- October 30, 2024, ANOC Awards and Gala Dinner, Cascais, Portugal
- October 31, 2024, Meeting with IOC Presidential Candidate, Cascais, Portugal
- November 1, 2024, ANOC Themed Sessions, Cascais, Portugal
- November 4, 2024, ICAS Membership Commission Meeting, Athletes Commission Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 5, 2024, ICAS Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 6, 2024, IOC Legal Affairs Commission Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 8, 2024, IOC Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Commission Virtual Meeting
- November 14, 2024, Call with IOC Presidential Candidate
- November 21-23, 2024, Panam Sports Executive Board Meeting and Athletes Forum, Dominican Republic

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## REPORT OF TREASURER

### Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the Treasurer is to:

- Liaise with and support the Executive Director in connection with the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, as well as the long-term financial plan, having regard to the four-year Olympic cycle and presents them to the Ordinary Congress;
- Chair and call for meetings of the Finance Committee, and reports to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Finance Committee;
- Act as member of the Internal Audit Committee and is responsible for convening the meetings; and to
- Submit a report and present the financial statements to the Ordinary Congress each year.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2024 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Vincent Gaillard and the Head of Corporate Services and Administration Prateek Gumber and chairing the Finance Committee and Audit Committee meetings. The report on the 2024 accounts appears elsewhere in the agenda papers.

World Rowing's operational result was CHF 17'284, versus a budgeted deficit of - 48'498 thanks to strict cost control. With global markets performing strongly throughout 2024 the result on our investment portfolio was CHF 664'172, resulting in an overall result for the year of CHF 681'456.

#### Summary and focus for 2025

Given dependency on the Olympic revenue, the increasing scope of activities of World Rowing to meet expectations from all stakeholders, the inflationary environment and increasing pressure on the traditional broad cast revenue model and other revenue sources, increasing and diversifying revenue streams remains the priority for World Rowing.

In 2024 the Executive Director and his team have successfully realised the first steps into diversifying revenue streams to allow for further investments in the sport, with for example the partnership with Concept2 to further develop Indoor Rowing. The inclusion of Beach Sprints in the Los Angeles Olympic Games will hopefully be a catalyst for attracting further investments into this discipline. Hopefully additional revenue will be realized over the 2025-2028 to offset the current CHF 250'000 deficit over that 4-year period and to allow to make further investments in the sport.

## REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

### Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

#### Internal audit Committee

The role of the Internal Audit Committee is to provide oversight on audit, finance, risk management and governance matters, including overseeing the following:

- the appropriateness of the four-year and annual budget process,
- the integrity of the financial statements,
- compliance with applicable accounting principles and laws,
- internal controls as they relate to financial reporting and non-financial matters,
- the qualifications, independence, appointment and work of the external auditor, and
- the effectiveness of World Rowing's risk management infrastructure.

The Internal Audit Committee shall submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.

The Internal Audit Committee consists of three individuals; the World Rowing Treasurer and two individuals who do not hold elected, appointed or employed positions within World Rowing.

Of the three, at least one should have a legal background and one a finance background.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

The Internal Audit Committee met virtually in March, June and October with the Executive Director and Finance director and had an 'Internal Audit Committee only' meeting in May. Key topics that were reviewed and discussed included the risk assessment matrix, the annual report including a discussion with the auditors, the budget and financial 4-year planning, efforts to diversify World Rowing's revenue, IT risks and recommendation of the audit and auditor for next year.

#### Focus for 2025

For 2025 the Audit Committee identified the following topics to focus on: audit review with PWC, the RFP to evaluate a potential change of auditor, diversification of the commercial revenue, asset management, and a check in on topics discussed in the previous years (IT, water safety).

#### Summary

The review of the risk assessment, financial audit, 4-year financial planning, and IT risks did not reveal any (potential) shortcomings or new risks given actions/measures taken. The high dependency on one source of income (Olympic revenue) is a (known) risk where the Audit Committee has continued to stress to intensify efforts to identify other sources of income and monitored progress.

#### 2024 Commission Members

Hans-Jorgen Aversen (NOR)

Germaine Bauer (SUI)

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED), Chair

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Vincent Gaillard

#### 2024 In Summary

2024 marked the third year in the implementation of our strategic plan to transform the Reach, Image and Revenues of Rowing: 15 years to drive new generations to engage with Rowing, in all its forms. In that context, and as our members will remember from our previous report published ahead of our previous Ordinary Congress, we had set 12 priority objectives above and beyond 'business as usual'. Very tangible progress was made throughout the year in delivering against each of them, as highlighted in the first section of this report.

#### Classic Rowing

The major highlight and most significant achievement of the year was undoubtedly the delivery of two highly successful Olympic and Paralympic Regattas, and various connected promotional initiatives, associated with Rowing at Paris 2024. A remarkable operational success for World Rowing and the entire Rowing community, with many valuable learnings to take forward, notably in relation to expected broadcast improvement and innovations and the increase our global reach and coverage around LA28 and beyond. The 'mega championships' in St. Catharines, Canada combining the Under 19, Under 23 and senior non-Olympic and paralympic disciplines were also immensely successful marking a year of high-quality rowing events in different continents. The year 2024 also saw very substantial progress with our Strategic Event & Calendar Review project, in preparation for critical decisions to be made at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress – World Championship programme, overall progression systems, mixed boats and more, all of which have been made at the time this report is being written –. As planned, the work relating to a future 'sporting incentive scheme' around our World Cups, to a Teams & Athletes Global Ranking and the development of our future calendar, including reshaped World Cup Series, for 2029 onwards is carried through to 2025 with expected conclusions during that year. Finally, progress was made throughout the year on developing an 'in-principle' agreement with the Shanghai Administration of Sport for several ambitious legacy initiatives to the 2025 World Rowing Championships, including the creation of annual, recurring Classic Rowing sprint event following the annual 'Head of the Shanghai River Regatta', in view of an expected announcement in September 2025.

#### Indoor Rowing

2024 marked a highly dynamic year for the continued development of our fast-growing discipline, notably with the delivery of our second fully-hybrid World Championships in Prague; the announcement of a five-year transformative partnership with Concept2; World Rowing's formal application

for the first edition of the Olympic Esports Games (first edition expected in 2027); partnerships formalized with software companies Ergatta and EXR; the continued, exciting growth of our Japan Sports Council partnership and active participation at the first Virtual Sports Forum in Tokyo, and many other progressive initiatives. In summary, another productive year for the further development of our Indoor Rowing strategy and the development of new events to be launched in 2025 –World Rowing Virtual Series and Versa Challenge Finals –, in very close cooperation with the Indoor Rowing Commission.

#### Coastal And Beach Sprint Rowing

Following the historic announcement by the IOC, in the fourth quarter of 2023, of the inclusion of Beach Sprint Rowing at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, the focus of 2024 was on accelerating the development of a '13pt Olympic plan' developed by the Coastal Rowing Commission to elevate our discipline to Olympic standards. Details of this plan have been presented by Guin Batten, Chair of the commission, at the last Ordinary Congress. Other important highlights of the year were the hosting of the 2024 World Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Genoa, Italy, and the attribution of the 2025 and 2026 editions of the event. All in all, 2024 marked another very productive year for the further, exciting development of our Coastal Rowing discipline and the Beach Sprint format.

#### Revenues

While critical commercial initiatives were being developed or launched during the year 2024, with the expectation of mid to long-term revenue generation, incremental commercial revenue was secured as a result of two new commercial partnerships (Concept2, Andaluca) and our 'Enhanced Commercial Rights' initiative linked to events recently attributed, both of which were formalized during the year. The outcome will positively impact our financial results in 2024 and the remainder of the quadrennial. In parallel, negotiations for the renewal of our EBU Media Rights and Distribution partnership progressed well over the year, with a view to formalize a new 2025-2028 agreement in early 2025, thereby securing critical funding for the full cycle. Separately, our 'Philanthropy Lite' and 'Masters Licensing Program' projects were launched, and a proposal for an increase of World Rowing membership fees was developed for Congress approval, all with the aim of diversifying our revenue sources and securing World Rowing's financial position and ability to invest in the development and promotion of the sport.

#### Strategic Event Attribution Process (SEAP)

Several critical events were attributed in 2024 for the years 2025 and 2026, in addition to the World Rowing

Championships of 2027 (Lucerne), providing much needed visibility for all and critical revenue for World Rowing in the short to mid-term. It was decided to attribute the majority of 2027-28 events during the year 2025, following a process that has been launched at the time this report is being written (May 2025). In parallel, it was decided during the year to undertake a thorough review of our SEAP process in 2026, following the conclusion of the Strategic Event Calendar Review in 2025.

## Sustainability

2024 marked a major milestone in our sustainability journey, with a substantial overhaul of the historic World Rowing - WWF partnership and the formal launch of our new 'Healthy Waters Alliance'. Our joint initiative is aiming to enable further water conservation activations at local and national levels, empowering our Member Federations and Organising Committees to act where it matters in partnership with WWF offices around the world.

[worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/wwf-alliance](https://worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/wwf-alliance)

Many such local activations took place around the world in 2024, with specific highlights around the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Genoa, Italy.

[worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/healthy-waters-alliance-projects](https://worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/healthy-waters-alliance-projects)

The year saw the development of many other initiatives associated with climate action, biodiversity protection and other initiatives described in the following 'Development & Sustainability' report.

## Governance

### Good-Governance

While progress continued on many fronts and key gender-equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, the year was marked by two highlights: the publication of the fifth review of International Federation Governance conducted by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), where World Rowing became the highest-scoring International Federation amongst peer organisations of a comparable size and annual revenue – exceeding the scores of much larger organisations on certain critical indicators –; and the launch of our 'Confederations Collaboration Project', aiming at strengthening the levels of collaboration between World Rowing and our five confederations, while raising and aligning governance standards.

During the year, World Rowing also became an Engaged Organisation to the Centre for Sports & Human Rights (CSHR); renewed its critical collaboration with the Independent Testing Agency (ITA) for a new cycle (2025-28) under improved financial terms, for the full externalization of our antidoping activities; and work progressed in preparation for critical Governance and Rules changes at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress in March 2025. At the time this report is written – May 2025 – all these changes have been successfully adopted.

[worldrowing.com/2024/06/25/world-rowing-stands-out-amongst-peer-international-federations-in-latest-asoif-governance-review](https://worldrowing.com/2024/06/25/world-rowing-stands-out-amongst-peer-international-federations-in-latest-asoif-governance-review)

## Masters

In addition to holding a successful World Masters event in Brandenburg, Germany, 2024 saw the Launch of World Rowing's new 'Masters Membership program', an important initiative designed to strengthen our support and services to the Masters community. This initiative will also allow World Rowing to generate recurring revenue to be reinvested into the development and promotion of the sport.

## Festivalisation

2024 saw further efforts made by World Rowing, in conjunction with relevant partners including our new Sports Presentation Event 360, to increase the attractiveness of our events to spectators through the testing and implementation of various fan engagement and promotional initiatives. These efforts will require much greater focus and investment in the coming years.

## Finance

2024 saw the beginning of an important transition in World Rowing's accounting and financial admin processes, including a change of accounting software and of our chart of accounts, as well as efforts to reach increased consistency in budget and forecast presentations. The year 2024 closed on a positive note with an operational profit and a positive financial outcome from our investment portfolio. See specific report in these Agenda Papers.

## Team

From a Human Resources standpoint, the year was marked by two challenging interim situations in the Governance and Finance functions due to unforeseen long duration leaves of the two Managers concerned. These situations led to various measures, including an increased involvement of Strategic Projects Advisor Pat Lambert over various governance activities in 2024 and a restructuring in the role of Prateek Gumber, who agreed to assume greater responsibilities in the management of our Finance and Human Resources functions in addition to his ongoing corporate services role. The situation with the Governance and Finance functions stabilised towards the end of 2024. The year also saw the permanent contracting of two staff members, Maike Diekmann-Betts and Sherry Payne, respectively in the Development/Sustainability and Broadcast/Marketing departments, as well as the recruitment of our first full-time Indoor Rowing Manager, Juliette Duchemin, who started in January 2025.

Importantly, the end of 2024 saw the setting of a new set of objectives, above and beyond 'business as usual', for the year 2025:

1. Classic Rowing: bring SECR to a positive conclusion; engage & develop Masters community & CRM; deliver benchmark WRCH in Shanghai.
2. Coastal Rowing: deliver benchmark WRBSF at Rio 2025; pursue development of BSR competition; progress delivery of 13pt Olympic plan.
3. Indoor Rowing: deliver a profitable virtual WRICH and Virtual Series (Versa Finals?); pursue OEG planning; develop license/CRM project.

4. World Rowing transformation: map 2025-2027 priority projects & investments and pursue implementation of 15yr plan.
5. Revenues: develop 'Philanthropy Light' plan and sponsorship capability; secure incremental revenue wherever possible.
6. Global content and rights distribution: develop digital platforms with Nagra and WBD Sports, including Global Ranking.
7. Governance: pursue Confederations Collaboration project; deliver critical GWG and Rules changes for 2025-2028 cycle.
8. WWF Healthy Waters Alliance: deliver first full year with diversified MF and Events activations across continents.
9. 'Shanghai House of Rowing': develop concept, secure agreement and announce with Shanghai Municipality as WRCH legacy.
10. Administration: roll out finance, accounting and HR process improvements and tools.

We closed the year 2024 with great progress being made on a number of critical fronts, with many challenges successfully handled thanks to a very close and fruitful collaboration with the World Rowing President, Executive Committee, Council and Commissions.

In the context of what was yet another highly productive and challenging year, my warmest and most sincere thanks go to the remarkable World Rowing Team and all our staff members who, in their respective roles and functions, have shown an outstanding commitment and dedication to growing the reach, image and revenues of Rowing around the world. The reports of our various departments follow.

## Development and Sustainability

In 2024, World Rowing advanced its mission to expand the global reach of the three disciplines of Rowing while embedding environmental protection and restoration at the core of its development agenda.

### Strategic focus

Our strategic focus – as outlined in the 2021-2024 strategy – remained on building capacity across all levels of the sport with tailored education and training opportunities for athletes and coaches, umpires, technical delegates and leaders. Safety, equality, diversity and inclusion are key aspects with a goal to strengthen our environmental commitments thanks to a global framework to unite the worlds of Rowing and nature conservation.

### Global Reach and Impact

The WR Development Programme Development implemented activities in 96 countries across all continents, encompassing over 50 initiatives at global, regional and national levels to reinforce WR's commitment to inclusive and equitable development. These included targeted support for athletes and coaches participating in Olympic and Paralympic qualifiers in Asia-Oceania, the Americas, and Europe, while maintaining strong backing for African athletes on their journey to the Games.

### Continental Development Highlights

Since 2018, WR has prioritised continental development through collaboration with continental representatives and confederations.

### Key 2024 milestones included:

- Launch of the first-ever Oceania Continental Indoor and Coastal Beach Sprint Youth Events
- Implementation of the Africa Classic and Beach Sprint Championships Development Programme, including support for a pilot regional classic Rowing championship in West Africa
- Strategic progress toward establishing the East and Central Africa Development Hub in Uganda
- Strengthened youth pathways in Asia
- Continued support for the Americas Coastal Beach Sprint Calendar, particularly for development competitions introduced from 2022 - Americas Cup and Championships
- Support to European nations with the greatest development needs, with a particular focus on advancing women's rowing performance

### Development at Events

The Development Programme helped Member Federations take part in the WR Championships and Beach Sprint Finals, supporting the solidarity programme and helping countries with fewer resources improve athlete performance from youth to senior levels.

### The WR Education Academy

Our Education Academy saw continued growth, with over 700 users accessing digital learning and 300 completing self-guided assignments. New AI-powered course-building tools were piloted.

### Equipment Assistance Programme

Nine nations across all continents—Benin (BEN), Cyprus (CYP), Jordan (JOR), Nigeria (NGR), Papua New Guinea (PNG), Puerto Rico (PUR), Togo (TOG), Trinidad and Tobago (TTO), and Sri Lanka (SRI)—benefited from the 2024 Equipment Assistance Programme, a key initiative to expand access to Rowing worldwide.

### Coaching and Technical Development

In 2024, coaching education focused on:

- Training new educators in Asia
- Enhancing the facilitation skills of continental lead experts
- Launching a new partnership with the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE) to promote learner-centered approaches

A new course for Technical Delegates (TDs) was introduced to build Beach Sprint capacity in developing countries. A group of continental TD educators—at least one per continent—was trained to deliver TD courses, host webinars, and mentor emerging TDs.

### Sustainability and Climate Action

The year also marked the successful launch of the innovative 'Healthy Waters Alliance' with National Rowing Federations, WR Event Organising Committees, Rowing clubs and Rowers as well as WWF offices to champion the protection and restoration of water ecosystems and biodiversity. Member-driven initiatives like "Water Wardens by Rowing" and "Adopt a Beach" addressed plastic pollution while promoting local engagement in France and Italy. World Rowing was honoured with a nomination for the IOC Climate Action Award and completed both its 2023 Carbon Footprint Report and Climate Action Transition Plan. Sustainability education was scaled through internal training, online briefings for Organising Committees, and a series of knowledge-sharing webinars with equipment providers. Communication efforts included a refreshed sustainability webpage, a new Alliance partnership video, practical engagement toolkits, and the appointment of athlete ambassadors. Recycling efforts resulted in the repurposing of 280 kg of medals, and office waste protocols were strengthened. World Rowing also advanced sustainable procurement by prioritising local sourcing and digital processes. To guide event delivery, a comprehensive Event Sustainability Checklist was introduced, and sustainability reports were delivered by the Organising Committees of Varese, Lucerne, and Szeged.

### 2021–2024: A Successful Quadrennium for Development and Solidarity

The Paris Olympic quadrennium reinforced the critical importance of targeted administrative and technical support in growing Rowing globally. Through focused training, education, and resource deployment, rowing communities in 70 countries accessed over USD 2 million in direct funding via Olympic Solidarity programmes.

These achievements reflect World Rowing's commitment to building a consistent and scalable development framework—driven by the expertise and dedication of our managers, education leaders, and delivery team.

We gratefully acknowledge the unwavering support of our internal stakeholders and strategic partners across the Olympic and Paralympic movements, including the IOC, IPC, ASOIF, APSO, Member Federations, and equipment manufacturers—whose collective commitment made this progress possible.

### World Rowing Events And Olympic And Paralympic Regattas

World Rowing delivered a full calendar of high-impact events in 2024, capped by the Olympic and Paralympic regattas in Paris. Exceptional athlete performances, strong organisational delivery, and strategic planning underpinned another successful year for our event operations.

The 2024 World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2, returned in a hybrid format, with athletes competing both in-person in Prague and virtually from their home locations. The event featured once again the World Rowing Versa Challenge, a multi-format competition involving five varied events over two days.

Close and exciting races took place at the continental Olympic and Paralympic qualification regattas for Asia-Oceania, the Americas and Europe that were staged in Chungju (KOR); Rio

de Janeiro, BRA and Szeged, HUN respectively. The remaining Olympic and Paralympic quotas were confirmed at the Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta that took place in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Next the World Rowing Cup series was successfully staged in Varese, Italy; Lucerne, Switzerland and Poznan, Poland. The Netherlands and Great Britain emerged as strong overall performers across the series.

The highlight of the year was the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic regattas at Vaires-sur-Marnes. Fantastic water conditions provided the perfect environment for the athletes to perform on the sport's greatest stage.

In August, the World Rowing Senior, Under 23, Under 19 Championships was hosted in St. Catharines, Canada. Whilst the World Championships was the debut for many athletes, there were over 30 newly crowned Olympians from Paris that took part.

The World Rowing Masters Regatta was held in Brandenburg, Germany with over 3600 participants taking part. The event had a strong inclusive spirit with strong social bonds both on and off the water.

The end of the World Rowing events season culminated in the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Genoa, Italy. It was the first World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals event since the confirmation of the discipline in the programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Away from planning and delivery of events, and strategic planning across all disciplines, work was continued around the Strategic Event & Calendar Review focusing on three key deliverables (World Championship Programme – Rule 25; World Rowing Cup incentive scheme; 2029 event calendar).

Following a competitive bid process, the 2027 World Rowing Championships were attributed by the Congress to Lucerne, SUL.

Thank you to all the Organising Committees, World Rowing Commissions, consultants and stakeholders who contributed to the success of 2024.

### Corporate Services

The Corporate Services department has a wide range of responsibilities, with a focus on Event Services, Technology and Data, Special Projects, and—starting in the latter half of the year—Administration, including Finance, Accounting, HR, and Office Management.

A major achievement in 2024 was the successful soft launch of the World Rowing Masters Membership project, which attracted about 800 voluntary sign-ups. Several new features continued to be introduced throughout the year, with a multi-tier membership structure set to launch in 2025.

Olympic years bring additional responsibilities, particularly in the areas of Qualification, Sport Entries, Results Systems, and Accreditation. The department played an important role in these key elements to the International Federation's delivery of the Games. Furthermore, it also managed sports entries and accreditation services for all World Rowing events and several continental competitions, acting as the primary point of contact for team-related sports queries.

In particular, Monika Briedyte worked closely with the World Rowing Masters Commission to successfully deliver the 2024

World Rowing Masters Regatta in Brandenburg, Germany.

The department ensured the seamless delivery of services from key event partners, including Timing and Data – Swiss Timing, Time Team, and the Poznan Timing Team, Sports Presentation - Event360, Event Clothing and Boat Stickers - New Wave, and further event suppliers for accreditation, registration, medals, trophies, and diplomas.

Several tenders were issued to formalize new contracts for the LA 2028 Olympic cycle. Notably, Drago (Paris) was appointed as the medal supplier for the World Championships during the LA Quadrennium.

The virtual component of the 2024 Hybrid Indoor Rowing Championships was coordinated from a control room at the Lausanne headquarters. This innovative event management was successfully run in collaboration with race officials and umpires from around the world.

Significant efforts were made to enhance relationships with equipment providers and suppliers, who are crucial partners to the sport's success. Monthly meetings were held to discuss key topics, and tenders for boat and oar rentals were conducted for both Coastal and Masters events.

In preparation for the Quadrennial Congress rule changes, Prateek Gumbar collaborated closely with the Rules Working Group. This included coordination with various commissions and drafting proposals for Council review.

Further to working with this working group, Prateek Gumbar continued his role as contact point for the Umpiring Commission as well as the Equipment and Technology Commission. Monika Briedyte does the same for the Masters and Competitive Rowing Commissions.

In the second half of the year, Prateek assumed responsibility for financial and accounting operations, including oversight of the accounting firm CV Consulting in the absence of Ana Djalo. Focus was placed on process improvement and operational efficiency.

The Corporate Services team is led by Prateek Gumbar (IND), with Monika Briedyte (LTU) serving as Event Services Manager. The team welcomed Ela Zuvanic (CRO) as an intern, who was later appointed as a full-time remote consultant for databases and services.

## Broadcast, Marketing, Commercial

### Introduction

In 2024, World Rowing's Broadcast & Marketing department continued to navigate a complex and evolving landscape shaped by ongoing organisational transformation and the development of strategic commercial initiatives aimed at establishing new assets and diversifying revenue streams beyond traditional operations.

Building on the foundation laid in 2023, the department faced a particularly demanding year that required balancing day-to-day responsibilities with the pursuit of long-term commercial growth. The conclusion of the Olympic cycle added significant complexity to the year's activities. As the majority of World Rowing's broadcast, commercial, licensing, service provision, and other partnership agreements are traditionally aligned with the four-year Olympic cycle, 2024 marked a critical juncture for renegotiating and renewing these - partly critical - relationships.

The scale and strategic importance of these contracts demanded focused efforts to secure continuity and build enhanced value into future agreements. Concurrently, the department played an important role in the execution of World Rowing's slightly revamped Strategic Event Attribution Process, which was launched and partially finalised during the year. This initiative, designed to optimise event planning and commercial rights allocation, added another layer of strategic and operational responsibility for the team during an already demanding period.

Archiving these dual objectives necessitated very substantial commitment and resilience from the team members, very often requiring personal sacrifices to meet ambitious timelines, ensure sustained progress, and manage this broad portfolio - maintaining the momentum of daily operations while advancing pivotal commercial projects that will help shape World Rowing's future strategic direction and organisational structure.

### Key Activities, Focus Areas, Accomplishments, And Achievements

#### Broadcast Media

In the context of an increasingly complex and dynamically shifting media landscape - characterised by aging audiences, declining budgets among (public) broadcasters, ever evolving consumption habits, and the migration of younger demographics toward digital platforms - 2024 saw World Rowing taking steps to successfully safeguard the sport's visibility and presence on traditional linear television. These structural shifts, which continue to challenge traditional broadcast business models, thereby also threatening the commercial (sponsorship) proposition of sports rights owners, underscore the importance of the strategic efforts undertaken in 2024 (see point Business Development, Investment Opportunities). Despite these conditions, World Rowing effectively delivered on its broadcast-related objectives through the following key achievements:

- **Delivery and Compliance**

Fulfilled all contractual obligations to international broadcast partners, ensuring uninterrupted global coverage of the sport across key markets.

- **Host Broadcasting Services**

Oversaw the successful delivery of host broadcasting services for all applicable World Rowing and European Rowing events - despite encountering significant logistical challenges, notably at the World Rowing Coastal Championships & Beach Sprint Finals in Genoa (ITA).

- **Strategic Broadcast Partnerships**

- Successfully negotiated the renewal of the partnership with China Media Group (to the public also known as "CCTV"), securing continued reach in one of the sport's largest markets and significantly increased licensing fees compared to previous agreement;
- Concepted and concluded the framework for the formal renewal of World Rowing's long-standing agreement with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for the 2025–2028 cycle, with partial extensions into 2029–2032, ensuring stable coverage across key territories of Europe on public, linear, free-to-air television;

- Onboarded with beIN Sports (beIN Media Group) a new broadcast partner for the United States and Canada - thereby expanding reach of the sport in North America;
- Conducted renewal negotiations with Fox Sports Australia Pty Limited and Sky Network Television Limited, supporting continued broadcast presence in Australia and New Zealand, respectively.

In addition to these operational deliverables, the department undertook a range of forward-looking initiatives:

- Continuously monitored international broadcast markets to identify opportunities for further global expansion of World Rowing's broadcast footprint;
- Re-assessed World Rowing's portfolio of broadcast products to ensure continued relevance and value in the changing media ecosystem;
- Conducted a review of the organisation's broadcast rights distribution capabilities to inform future commercial and strategic decisions;
- Launched an informal Request for Proposal process aimed at refreshing World Rowing's on-air broadcast graphics across all disciplines;
- Analysed the Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) production of Rowing events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, providing groundwork for future innovations regarding the sport's global presentation on-screen.

#### Business Continuation

- Successfully managed the commercial delivery across all World Rowing and European Rowing events, covering key areas such as brand visibility, licensing, and merchandising;
- Provided ongoing account management for World Rowing's partner Concept2 Inc., as well as for key service providers critical to broadcast, sponsorship, legal, and insurance operations. This included quattro media GmbH (broadcast production & distribution), GPS Performance SA (event logistics), IRIS - Intelligent Research in Sponsoring GmbH (media monitoring & consulting), Charles Russell Speechlys LLP (trademark protection & legal advisory), and Marsh McLennan Companies Inc. (insurance solutions). These partnerships were led and overseen to ensure strategic alignment with World Rowing objectives and consistent delivery of high-quality services;
- Oversaw and delivered the day-to-day operational coordination as part of the account management for World Rowing's partnership with the Japan Sports Council.
- Conducted key legal work to support brand protection, including the advancement of international trademark registrations for the World Rowing brand;
- Increased revenues from the Licensing & Merchandising programme compared to 2023, despite the absence of a World Rowing Championships - typically a primary revenue driver - demonstrating the resilience and effectiveness of the programme;
- Secured comprehensive insurance coverage for World Rowing's operations and events, contributing to

- organisational risk mitigation and operational stability;
- Actively contributed to the Strategic Event Attribution Process through the development of enhanced bid documentation for World Rowing and European Rowing events, the redefinition of broadcast and commercial requirements, and the drafting of legally robust event hosting agreements.

#### Business Development:

- World Rowing Awards

Successfully reimagined and - following World Rowing Council approval - delivered the very warmly received 2024 World Rowing Awards, held in Seville (ESP), introducing new award categories such as "Rowing Programme of the Year" and "Artistic Contribution of the Year". In collaboration with the colleagues from Communications the department and the local promoter Athlete+ LLC the department led the end-to-end management of the event, including concept development, content production, and the identification and coordination of on-stage talent, reinforcing the Awards as a key platform for recognising excellence and creativity within the Rowing community.

- World Rowing Rankings

Initiated the strategic exploration of a global World Rowing Rankings system, envisioned as a future governance tool to support the coordination of the international Rowing event calendar and the development of a comprehensive event categorisation framework. The initiative also aims to enhance storytelling potential for media and stakeholders, to encourage participation in competition, and support talent identification. As part of this effort, the department led - in close collaboration with members of the Competitive Commission - the drafting of a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP), laying the groundwork for future implementation.

- Indoor Rowing - Programme of the inaugural Olympic Esport Games, Riyadh (KSA)

Following the highly successful showcase of Indoor Rowing at the 2023 Olympic Esports Week in Singapore (SGP), and in response to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) invitation to apply for inclusion of a select competition format of the discipline in the inaugural Olympic Esports Games to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the department supported the Indoor Rowing Commission by transforming the official application content into contemporary designed (marketing) collateral, suitable to strengthen the discipline's positioning and appeal within the evolving Olympic Esports framework.

- Indoor Rowing - Mass Participation and Elite Event Concept

Developed an integrated event concept combining mass participation and elite performance for the discipline of Indoor Rowing, designed to enhance visibility, engagement, and competitive development. The concept was successfully adapted to meet the specific needs of the Singaporean market and formally presented under the name "Singapore Super-60" to Sport Singapore for potential inclusion in the country's annual Urban Sports & Fitness Festival. Discussions are underway to structure a 3-5 year partnership agreement, with the aim of establishing a sustainable and high-impact event series in the region.

- **Indoor Rowing - Showcases in the Olympic Context**  
Managed World Rowing's Indoor Rowing showcases in Paris, delivered in partnership with Salty Lemon Entertainment Ltd. during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. These activations were conducted in collaboration with the World Olympians Association as part of their "Oly House" project, as well as with the Japan Sports Council for the Japan House.

- **Partnership Development - WR Sustainability Initiative - World Wildlife Fund**

Provided strategic support to the colleagues of the Development Department in the renewal of World Rowing's long-standing partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). This included contributing to the conceptualisation of the commercial model underpinning the partnership's updated operational framework in the context of the current "Healthy Waters" campaign, as well as supporting the integration of the newly introduced fundraisers and project managers. The department also played a key role in shaping the contractual documentation required to formalise and future-proof the collaboration.

- **Partnership Development - Andalusia Tourism**

In close collaboration with the World Rowing leadership successfully restructured World Rowing's initial agreement with Andalusia Tourism and the City of Seville into a strengthened and aligned partnership. Under the new framework, the City of Seville (ESP) will host the opening leg of the 2026 World Rowing Cup series, while Andalusia Tourism will sponsor both the 2025 and 2026 editions of the World Rowing Cup and the 2025 and 2026 World Rowing Championships, to be held in Shanghai (CHN) and Amsterdam (NED), respectively. The revamped agreement not only secures further revenue for the organisation but also provides a compelling and high-profile platform for the sport's most competitive and important regatta series.

- **Partnership Development - Salty Lemon Entertainment Ltd.**

Successfully evolved the initial one-year collaboration with Salty Lemon Entertainment Ltd., centred around its consumer-facing brand "EXR", into a new, multi-year partnership. The renewed agreement secures increased revenues for World Rowing over the next four years and strengthens the organisation's presence within the digital/connected Rowing and virtual fitness space.

- **Partnership Development - European Championships Management Sarl**

Successfully renegotiated the contract for European Rowing's participation in the 2026, 2030, and 2034 editions of the European Championships multi-sport event, securing improved terms compared to the previous agreement. However, due to the last-minute cancellation of the 2026 European Championships and the resulting uncertainty surrounding ECM's future operations, the final contract has not been signed yet and signature currently remains on hold. European Rowing, World Rowing, ECM, and the other participating federations are maintaining communication to monitor developments and determine the next steps based on the evolving situation.

- **Partnership Development - Shanghai Regatta & Shanghai House of Rowing**

Contributed to the strategic concept presented to Shanghai authorities for establishing a permanent World Rowing

presence in one of the sport's key growth markets. Additionally supported the introduction of a recurring World Rowing-sanctioned regatta in conjunction with the annual Head of the Shanghai River event. Discussions and negotiations with World Rowing's Chinese partners are ongoing and expected to conclude by late 2025 or early 2026.

- **Partnership Development - Insurances for Organising Committees of WR/ER Events**

Successfully collaborated with insurance experts from Marsh McLennan Companies Inc. to develop and introduce a comprehensive new event insurance package for Organising Committees of World Rowing and European Rowing events. The enhanced solution offers broader and more complete coverage while simultaneously reducing overall costs, representing a significant step forward in risk management and operational support for event hosts.

- **Enhanced Commercial Rights Fees**

Successfully introduced the new concept of Enhanced Commercial Rights Fees to the Organising Committees of World Rowing events. Following partly long and challenging negotiations, secured a number of respective agreements (namely with the Organising Committees of Shanghai, Qingdao, Lucerne, and Varese). This initiative further activated World Rowing's commercial rights portfolio and generated significant incremental revenue for World Rowing.

- **Development of Investment Cases**

Continuing the momentum from 2023, the Broadcast & Marketing department played a central role in supporting the leadership by advancing World Rowing's Strategic Commercial Partnership and Investment Project. The focus remained on identifying and shaping high-potential investment cases that support the long-term commercial growth and global visibility of the sport. Key developments in 2024 included:

- **Beach Sprint Rowing League**

Further exploration of an investor-funded, franchise-based international Beach Sprint Rowing league, to be developed in collaboration with US media giant Warner Bros. Discovery Inc. The discussions included considerations for an integrated event delivery model, leveraging the partner's expertise in comprehensive "one-stop-shop" media and event production services.

- **Direct-to-Consumer Digital Content Platform**

Continued strategic consultations with Switzerland-based Nagra-Kudelski Group regarding the development of an investor-funded digital direct-to-consumer (D2C) platform. The proposed platform would serve as a new digital broadcast home for Rowing, offering a range of content - including live and on-demand video, interactive and gamified Rowing experiences, and community engagement tools - all available globally on a 24/7 basis. This initiative is also positioned as a forward-looking response to the anticipated shift away from traditional linear television and the further development of the discipline of Indoor Rowing in a gamified/Esports environment. Discussion are ongoing and a go-to-market is currently expected for Q3/Q4 of 2025.

- **Public Relations and Market Monitoring**

In 2024, the department actively represented World Rowing at key international sports industry events, contributing to market intelligence and strengthening the organisation's visibility and relationships across the sector. This included

participation - both behind the scenes and on stage through panel engagements - at high-profile gatherings such as Sportel Monaco (MON), the Sport-Märkte-Medien Congress at ISPO Munich (GER), the Sportstravel presents Teams Europe by Northstar conference in London (GBR), and the Hosts & Federations Summit in Lausanne (SUI).

## Department

In 2024, further steps to build a well-structured and properly resourced Broadcast & Marketing Department were taken. A welcomed development was the arrival of Sherry Payne (USA) as Broadcast & Marketing Coordinator. Sherry joined World Rowing after completing a six-month internship with the organisation. She brings a background in Rowing as a former member of the NCCA Rowing team of California State University, Sacramento along with a "Master of Advanced Studies in Sport Administration and Technology" degree from the International Academy of Sport Science & Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland and a Bachelor in Biological Sciences. World Rowing will greatly benefit from her expertise and experience.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a very warm "thank-you" to the consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to growing our brand presence and commercial footprint around the world. And, of course, to the department members Kevin Fulgham and Sherry Payne for their continued commitment and various and valuable contributions.

### Communications, Media & Social Media

Throughout 2024, the Communications and Media team played a pivotal role in showcasing Rowing on the global stage, successfully driving visibility and engagement in a year marked by the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With creativity, precision, and a growing digital ecosystem, our team helped reinforce Rowing's relevance and appeal to both new and established audiences.

The 2024 Communications strategy focused heavily on maximising the exposure of Rowing in the context of Paris 2024. A dedicated editorial and digital campaign was deployed throughout the Olympic and Paralympic periods, securing widespread coverage and significantly enhancing the sport's presence during the Games. From athlete-led content to cross-platform storytelling, our efforts contributed to record-breaking engagement across all digital channels and a strong media footprint internationally.

This year also marked a major milestone in World Rowing's promotional efforts with the successful launch of the World Rowing Awards Gala, held in Seville, Spain. The event brought together the global Rowing community to celebrate the athletes, coaches, and contributors who shape our sport. Covered across our digital and media platforms, the Gala strengthened our brand identity and created a new flagship moment in our annual calendar.

World Rowing's social media audience continued its growth trajectory, surpassing 540,000 total followers across all platforms. Instagram once again led the way, with sharp increases in reach and engagement, particularly during the Olympic window - breaking the 200,000 followers' mark. The World Rowing website recorded over 5 million visits, driven by strong traffic during Paris 2024 and World Rowing events.

Media operations were further refined to support both on-site and remote coverage, with improved quote services, athlete access, and media materials. Our outreach to sport business media continued to pay off, resulting in dedicated features in major industry outlets and greater visibility for Rowing's evolution and strategy.

### Social media channels at a glance

In 2024, the main mission was to further develop the main World Rowing digital platforms - while trying to consolidate some new channels to reach new audiences. World Rowing X (formerly Twitter) followers increased from 48,600 followers to 49,300 followers, reaching more than 6 million impressions. Instagram continues to be the fastest-growing social media platform where we see an increasingly high number of young users. The World Rowing Instagram platform grew from 53,000 followers in 2018 to breaking the 200,000 mark during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and generated more than 100 million impressions - a great result that was highlighted by the SportonSocial report from RedTorch at the end of the year 2024. Instagram is the largest and most powerful platform we have, and in 2024, we have consolidated two new accounts - a World Rowing Coastal, and a World Rowing Indoor account, to cater for the respective audiences of these two disciplines.

TikTok saw a huge growth in 2024 after a skyrocket launch in 2022 and a stable increase in 2023, notably around the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Special efforts at events will be made in 2025 to get more engagements / views on this platform.

Our Chinese social media channels (WeChat, Weibo and Douyin) have been put on pause in 2024 while the overall content strategy for China was being processed. With views to the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, China, these channels will now be launched in a few weeks, which will help establishing a proper presence in the Chinese social media landscape.

Finally, with over 3.7 million video views, and 450 uploads (videos, shorts, livestreams), 2024 has been our largest year on YouTube thus far. These numbers only help drive the idea to monetize our channel on the platform, which was done in July of 2023, and helped us achieve a substantial earned revenue in 2024.

### In summary

- Total number of followers across the different channels : 545k (+45k vs 2023)
- Number of impressions in 2023 : 116 million (+45M impressions vs 2023)
- Number of web stories published : 271
- Number of webpage views : 5 million
- Number of accredited media at World Rowing / European Rowing events : 800+

## Governance

World Rowing's deeply rooted culture of good governance and ongoing efforts to make progress have been recognised by ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) in their report of the 5th evaluation of the Governance of Summer Olympic International Federations

published in June 2024. The report is based on a self-assessment by the federations using a questionnaire of 60 indicators in the areas of transparency, integrity, democracy, development and control mechanisms, self-assessment which is moderated by an independent body I Trust Sport.

Significant work has been carried out in preparation for the Quadrennial Congress in revising the Statutes and related Bye-Laws. This exercise has been supported by the Governance Working Group led by the independent chair Annamarie Phelps. This group's aim is to ensure that World Rowing maintains an effective approach to governance, particularly in reviewing different governance processes and regulations. In the running up to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, special attention was drawn to prevention of competition manipulation and anti-doping. Although rowing is not currently considered to represent a high risk of competition manipulation according to information gathered by the IOC, all ITO's were invited to follow on 18 June 2024 an interactive webinar on the topic of competition manipulation for referees, judges, and technical officials organised by the Olympic Movement Unit on Prevention of Manipulation of Competition unit to ensure that all accredited people know the rules regarding competition manipulation. Furthermore, Saulius Ritter, World Rowing Ambassador for the Prevention of Competition Manipulation, is regularly present at integrity booths to provide advice.

As far as anti-doping is concerned, World Rowing and ITA have provided five webinars in six languages – English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Russian and Mandarin. The report from ITA is taken up in the Agenda Papers in the form of an infographic.

As part of the ongoing commitment to good governance and transparency, World Rowing has initiated the process of asking all members to complete the Annual Conflict of Interest Declaration Form. This form will be updated on an annual basis and the topic is a fixed point in the agenda of each Council and Executive Committee meetings to take possible conflicts up in the register.

Gender equality, kept at the highest level of our governance as it is for our sporting participation, is monitored and communicated to the Member Federations, e.g. at the Ordinary Congress. The 2024 one was organised in virtual format on 16 November 2024. Further to this statutory milestone, Member Federation online and in-person consultation meetings are regularly held, and decisions of the Council and Executive Committee meetings are communicated with the MFs in regular circulars.

The Governance and integrity manager is Ludovica Caprino, Patricia Lambert acting from January to October 2024.

Report from the International Testing Agency (ITA)  
2024 Annual review for World Rowing

# 2024 ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES



## SAMPLE COLLECTION

TOTAL COMPLETED TESTS  
**697**

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM ATHLETES  
**461**

MEN/WOMEN  
**53** **47**  
PERCENTAGE (%)

TOTAL SAMPLES COLLECTED

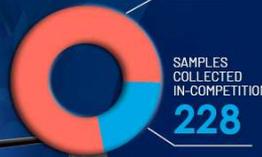
# 1,063

FROM ATHLETES BELONGING TO  
**55**  
NATIONALITIES

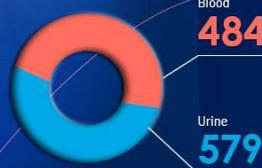
### TOP TESTED NATIONALITIES



SAMPLES COLLECTED OUT-OF-COMPETITION  
**835**



### TYPE OF SAMPLE



## RESULTS MANAGEMENT

Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) confirmed and sanction imposed

# 4

Please note that the caseload 2024 is ongoing.

## EDUCATION

The clean sport education plan was updated for 2024

Number of webinar participants

# 93

Number of countries reached

# 20

## THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

Number of applications

# 21

**2** PENDING

**3** NOT NEEDED/  
WITHDRAWN

**16** APPROVED

Event-based education

# 1

EVENT

Data valid as of 26.3.2025

This report pertains solely to the activities conducted by the ITA under the WR's Testing Authority/Jurisdiction

## ATHLETES COMMISSION

Frida Svensson (SWE)

### Purpose of the Athletes' Commission (AC)

The Athletes' Commission represents active elite rowers, including Under 19 and Under 23 athletes, and serves as a liaison between the athlete community and World Rowing.

### Core Activities of the Commission

- Establishing a global network of representative rowers to ensure broad, balanced representation across gender, geography, and member federation size.
- Communicating athlete views to the World Rowing Council on all matters related to competitive rowing.
- Conducting athlete surveys and meetings at World Rowing events and reporting findings to the Executive Committee and Council.
- Reviewing the organisation of World Rowing Championships and Olympic/Paralympic regattas and providing feedback.
- Disseminating key information from World Rowing to the athlete community.

### Key Activities and Achievements – 2024

#### World Rowing Integrity Booth

In collaboration with World Rowing, the AC continued the Integrity Booth initiative, creating an educational space for athletes and teams to engage in areas such as:

- Anti-Doping
- Safeguarding
- Prevention of Competition Manipulation

The booths were delivered at the U19 World Championships and World Cup in Poznan, with support from IOC Athlete365 and the International Testing Agency (ITA). The booth is envisioned as a recurring awareness opportunity, particularly for U19 athletes.

#### Commission Involvement and Representation

- Active contributions to SECR (Sustainable and Environmental Commission for Rowing), GEDI (Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), Fairness, Safeguarding, and Para Rowing Commissions.
- Development of a social media plan with the World Rowing Media team.
- Representation at key World Rowing events: World Cup, U19, U23, World Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Strengthening Para Rowing Engagement

The AC significantly enhanced its engagement with the para rowing community:

- Close collaboration with the Para Rowing Commission and Technical Commission led to the creation of a working group to develop standardised boat checks at all events, increasing fairness and consistency.
- Positive athlete feedback reflected improved confidence in equipment compliance and competition integrity.
- The AC addressed concerns from para athletes in national federations lacking adequate representation by connecting them to relevant contacts and resources.
- A new partnership with the Para Rowing Foundation included a joint webinar to raise awareness of the AC's role and available support.

### Focus for 2025

- Integrity Booths at U19 (Trakai) and a mini version at Senior World Championships, with an emphasis on athlete awareness and upcoming AC elections.
- Launch of an Education Program on the Declaration of Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities, in collaboration with Council member and former AC Chair, Lenka Wech Dienstbach.
- Athletes' Commission elections promotion
- Initiatives promoting mental health awareness
- Explore cost-effective ways to maintain impact, such as collaborating with national athlete commissions in host cities.
- Develop toolkits to help national federations enhance athlete representation.
- Host regional forums (virtual or in-person) to amplify underrepresented voices.
- Create consistent communications (newsletters, social media, videos) about Commission activities.
- Partner with World Rowing to share athlete stories and updates.
- Highlight career pathways for athletes transitioning into coaching, governance, or advocacy roles.
- Promote athlete-led education in areas like anti-doping, dual careers, and safeguarding.

## Summary

World Rowing AC remains proud of the International Federation's efforts to prioritise athletes in its decision-making processes. We thank all who continue to support and elevate athlete voices, and we commend World Rowing for setting a global standard.

The AC is committed to empowering and educating athletes, ensuring their well-being, and representing the global athlete community. We look forward to further contributing to World Rowing's development across all disciplines and levels, working closely with the marketing team to promote rowing and support innovation, particularly within the Indoor Rowing Commission.

Together, we build a safe, inclusive, and inspirational environment for all athletes.

## Commission members

Esther Briz (ESP)  
Mindaugas Griskonis (LTU)  
Luke Letcher (AUS)  
Julia Michalska-Plotkowiak (POL)  
Nazanin Malaei (IRN)  
Robin Prendes (USA)  
Benjamin Pritchard (GBR)  
Frida Svensson (SWE), Chair  
Emma Twigg (NZL)  
Niels Van Zandweghe (BEL)

## COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

### Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED)

The purpose of the Competitive Rowing Commission is to encourage and support the growth of rowing in support of World Rowing's Strategy, to act as a centre of excellence for the discipline of classic rowing and provide support for sustainable development.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Delivered a successful 3rd World Rowing Virtual Coach Conference in January 2023. The Coastal, Indoor, Competitive, Para, Sport Medicine, GEDI, Youth commissions with World Rowing President, Executive Director, Governance, Development and Event Teams all contributed. Planning and programme publication for the 4th World Rowing Virtual Coach Conference due to be delivered in January 2024.
- Coach education- Continued development and training of a Coach Educator workforce to deliver at continental level. Delivery for L1 Classic, Coastal, the Coastal Race and Para Rowing modules.
- Pilot of World Rowing L2 Coaching Course in March, Bled and December in Seville.
- Seeding - Conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European Championships, World Rowing Cups and the senior World Rowing Championships.
- Fairness Committees – Fairness Committees nominated for the European Championships, World Rowing Cups, World Rowing Championships at Senior, U23 and U19. Weather data and Fairness preparation before events continues to be developed.
- Competitive Commission meetings in 2024 – frequent zoom meetings throughout the year and in person meetings at rowing events and a full commission meeting in Oxford, hosted at the college.
- Continue to co-ordinate the Coaching Cross Commission meeting.
- The Commission and individual members supported the 8 rowing coaches on the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH).
- Weather buoys were deployed at the Paris course during the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic events. The full capabilities of the buoys were available, not only measuring wind speed, wind direction and wave height, but also forecasting the water conditions based on modelling and weather forecast.
- Preparing and researching the new progression system without repechages and preparing it for presentation and decision-making at the 2025 quadrennial congress.

#### Focus for 2025

- Increase the standard and number of coaches by:
  - Continuing to create opportunities for coaches to access education through the World Rowing Education programme and coaches conference.
  - Co-ordinate the Coaching Development Cross Commission.
  - Continuing to support the development programmes.
  - Continue to Support the Women's Development strategy and in particular developing women coaches and coaches of women.
  - Support initiatives from the GEDI group to increase diversity and inclusion in coaching.
  - Finalise the L2 Qualifications following the pilot programme in 2023 and orientate coach educators to deliver post the 2024 Olympic Games.
  - Continue the planning process for a sport science and medicine and coaching conference in 2025.
  - Explore and possibly start a coach educational podcast
- Continue to deploy the weather buoys at key rowing venues during and around events to build models to be used in the future. Liaise with the Equipment and Technology Commission members with appropriate expertise in this area.
- Ensure that Fairness Committees are appointed within the continent for all the World Rowing Continental Qualification Events and provide a briefing before and support throughout the events.
- Support World Rowing to evaluate alternative formats of the sport and work with other commissions to develop these as appropriate.
- Support the Water Safety Working Group.
- Prepare the World Rowing ranking system
  - Searching for the right supplier
  - Preparing a planning for development, implementation and communication

#### Summary

The Commission has worked effectively to contribute to World Rowing events through such processes at the Events Review. Commission members have contributed to the development programme supporting events and coaches. Thanks to the members of the Commission for their continued time and effort for the sport, to the other commissions with whom we work closely and to the Council, Executive and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

**2025 Commission Members**

Peter Cookson (CAN)

Brett Gorman (USA)

Nebojsa Ilic (SBR)

Chris Perry (HKG)

Faycal Soula (TUN)

Paul Thompson (AUS)

Marcello Varialle (BRA)

Mario Woldt (GER)

Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED), Chair

## EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Mathias Binder (SUI)

The purpose of the Equipment and Technology Commission is to support development in the field of rowing equipment, including the review of new technology and its potential application to rowing.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Activities in establishing standards for the safety of rowing equipment and enforce this at World Rowing events
  - Review quick opening and quick release systems for shoes on safety aspects
- Activities in establishing and ensuring compliance with rules concerning boats and equipment used in rowing events to which the World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing apply
  - Educated E&T commission members to participate and support the pre-race para equipment checks
  - E&T commission members participated in the pre-race para equipment checks at the various WR events with para races
  - Performed boat checks at the Coastal Championships and Beach sprint finals
  - Commission members participation on the regular WR Regattas and the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Activities to encourage the production of inexpensive rowing equipment complying with specified standards
  - Support WR development team on discussions for local boat manufacturing
- Activities in surveying equipment in use and produce theoretical material and drawings for rowing equipment
  - Created a template for the para pontoon to allow to verify a pontoon was built according to the "FISA-Design" making sure there is equal conditions for everyone
  - Provided scientific background for the discussion around potential boat surface treatment
- Activities in collecting and reviewing scientific information, relating to equipment and technology, available for the sport of rowing
  - Leading the discussion on new / updated "electronic rule" (R2 Rule 29) with other commissions, Council and other Stakeholders.
- Activities in being the point of contact with World Rowing for the manufacturers of equipment and technology in the sport of rowing, including innovations(
  - Participation of E&T Commission members at the regular equipment and supplier meetings and improved communication with boat builders and other equipment suppliers

- Visits of boat manufacturers to better understand boat building process and new developments
- Started discussion around sustainability related to rowing equipment
- Discussions around innovations that have been submitted in coastal and classic rowing, such as the rigger winglets of Filippi
- Para Pontoon clarification memo

### Focus for 2025

- Observe impact of new "electronic" rules (R2 Rule 29) during WR Regattas collect information on available systems, systems used, support Jury during regatta with technical expertise and boat weighing point of contact for MF's / teams on the implementation of the new rule (Please describe the main goals of the commission and explain how the support the 2025-2028 strategic objectives – see annex).
- Continue discussions around Sustainability aspects of rowing equipment i.e Carbon fiber recycling (Sustainability also in context of the "Healthy water Water alliance)
- Active support in the pool boat selection process for the Beach sprints LA28 (to support the top priority goal in coastal)
- Finish work to make E&T related forms available on the WR website and add E&T related content to website
- Delegate a member to the WSWG and actively support these activities
- Explore the market for new & modern athlete and boat weighing scales
- Active support on the evaluation of new technologies on Para equipment, Coastal and Flat water boats

### Summary

We welcomed Michael Martinov (USA), Simone Martini (ITA) and Adrian Champion (GBR) to the commission. With these new members we could broaden and complete the commissions field of expertise. Even though the new commission did not have the chance yet meet in person, we managed to integrate the new members into the Commission and educate them for their duties during WR events. Thanks to regular virtual meetings there is active exchange of information and discussion on ongoing topics within the commission. The Commission members have worked effectively to support various commissions during World Rowing events. Thanks to the members of the Commission for their continued time and effort for the sport, to the other commissions with whom we work closely and to the Council, Executive and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

**2024 Commission Members**

Mathias Binder (SUI), Chair  
Adrian Champion (GBR)  
Conny Draper (AUS)  
Thomas Ebert (DEN)  
Arnoud Greidanus (NED)  
Simone Martini (ITA)  
Michael Martinov (USA)

## EVENTS COMMISSION

Eva Szanto (HUN)

The purpose of the Events Commission is, in conjunction with relevant Commissions and staff members and in line with World Rowing policies, to establish and monitor the standards of international regattas and of all World Rowing events with regard to the organisation of the event, the venue, technical installations, and safety of all participants.

### Key Activities and Achievements in 2024

#### 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games

The highlight of the 2024 season was the Paris Olympic & Paralympic Games Rowing Regatta held at Vaires-sur-Marne (FRA), which required years of preparation. Thanks to a very good collaboration with the relevant departments of the Paris2024 organising committee, especially the rowing sports team, the IOC, their partners and contractors, regular calls with Paris2024 and several site visits. Both the Olympic and Paralympic rowing regattas were a huge success.

#### Qualification Regattas

Three Continental Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regattas were held in 2024. Legacy courses – Rio de Janeiro (BRA) and Chungju (KOR) – hosted the Americas and the Asia/Oceania qualification events respectively. The European qualification regatta (EOPQR) was held in Szeged (HUN) along with the European Rowing Championships. Szeged is a new venue that lasted hosting a World Rowing 35 years ago.

The Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta (FOPQR) was held in Lucerne (SUI), preceding World Rowing Cup II. A new format of Victory Ceremony was tested during the FOPQR, holding the ceremony in one block after racing in the boat park, which was successful.

#### World Rowing Cups and Championships

World Rowing Cup I and III were hosted by Varese (ITA) and Poznan (POL) respectively.

The 2024 World Rowing Senior, U23 & U19 Championships were organised in St Catharines (CAN). This was a highly challenging event due to its nature of being a combined championships of various age groups with high participation numbers.

- The events saw improved Sport Presentation where some innovations included a new approach to Victory Ceremonies during the EOPQR and FOPQR as well as slight changes in the competition schedule to provide space for better fan engagement. The best example of sport presentation and fan engagement activities was the Paralympic Games Rowing Regatta in Paris.

- The Events Commission members contributed to the success of all the above events. The Technical Delegates (TD) appointed for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, each World Rowing event, additionally three European Rowing Championship events and FISU World Championships assisted organising committees throughout the preparation phase and during the event hand-in-hand with the Event Managers. It took multiple online meetings, in person site visits and document preparation. The TDs have built on previous experience having events in the same venues and continued to exercise a consistent approach when ensuring the World Rowing requirements are met and proper technical solutions are implemented. One of the key factors to successful event delivery amongst others is good planning, monitoring, continuous exchange and creating and maintaining good relationships with the organising committees.
- The internal consultation and collaboration platforms among the Events Commission members and the Events Team include online calls, sharing documents and a WhatsApp group for the commission members. Shadowing opportunities at events for less experienced commission members were provided.
- The excellent co-operation with other World Rowing commissions, especially Athletes, Competitive Rowing, Umpiring, Para Rowing, Youth, Sport Medicine, Equipment & Technology is essential in the preparation for and during delivering events.
- The Commission, through the activities of the TDs, continued to assist organising committees implement better survey practices and provide improved course survey reports with a special focus on the Vaires-sur-Marne rowing course and its installations.
- Continued to improve in the area of water safety with better training of the OCs' local rescue and medical teams & services in close co-operation with the Sport Medicine Commission, World Rowing staff and external experts.
- Technical Delegates, together with the World Rowing Event Managers, were in constant contact with Organising Committees, assisting them to prepare the regattas to the highest possible standards. Besides the site visits, we continued with the practice of online meetings with the Organising Committees, several of which were dedicated to specific operational areas such as Results & Timing Services, Sport Presentation, Broadcast, Water Safety, Sustainability and Safeguarding.
- When requested, the Commission members provided guidance and actively took part in evaluating plans for new courses or major infrastructure upgrades on existing venues.

- The Commission contributed to consultations with organisers of future World Rowing events as well as the OCs of multisport Games such as the FISU Summer University Games taking place in 2025 and in 2027, ECM and after the conclusion of the Paris 2024 Games we started the process of preparing Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028.
- The Events Commission contributed to the Strategic Event and Calendar Review (SECR) process in determining the World Rowing calendar for the future as well as provided its inputs to drafting and finalising the competition schedules.
- During the 2024 season we continued to keep a record of items in the World Rowing Manual which need to be clarified or updated.
- The Executive Committee approved the Technical Delegates for the 2024 events prior to starting work and consultation with the organising committees at the end of 2023. The nominations were based on past experience of the commission members, skills and development goals. Optimising travel times and minimising costs and carbon footprint were also considered.
- Transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of rowing regattas also included on several occasions observer programmes when future organisers visit regattas and see the facilities and operations, have opportunities for consultation with TDs, Event Managers, other key people from World Rowing event delivery team and OC.

The Commission started working on a syllabus of a TD Training Course, which needs to be finalised. Rolling out the trainings and workshops is subject to budget available.

### Focus for 2025

- Run all World Rowing events successfully.
- Continue planning for and deliver events, implement a successful regatta season for World Rowing and continental events, contribute to the successful execution of the Rowing Regatta at the FISU Summer University Games. Site visits will continue to be a combination of physical site visits and virtual update calls with the Organising Committees which helps to improve our environmental footprint.
- Continue contributing to finding hosts for classic rowing events and look for ways how rowing can be included in multisport games. Continue planning and preparations for LA2028, involvement in discussion about rowing competition schedule, qualification pathway, venue planning and ORIS.
- Onboarding new Commission members.
- Continued transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of rowing regattas; finalise TD training syllabus and training material. TD training and consultancy on continental level.
- Continued contribution to the Strategic Event & Calendar Review process with a clear objective of designing attractive, sustainable events for all stakeholders with a special focus on the organising committees.
- Continued discussions with the Coastal Rowing Commission to find ways to transfer knowledge and

expertise between the two Commissions and to identify what each race format (Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint events and classic rowing) can learn from each other. Plan a TD workshop for the two commissions together.

- Continue to support the GEDI group, Safeguarding and Environmental/Sustainability initiatives by raising awareness with OCs and including specific discussion topics in site visit agendas.
- Set up the Course Survey Working Group, a sub-group of the Events Commission and invited experts to conclude review and update of course survey requirements to achieve improvement of the course survey processes aligned with latest technology.
- Continue to update and restructure the World Rowing Manual.
- Ongoing contribution to and leadership of the Water Safety WG, implementation of guidelines, refining processes, reporting of incidents, setting up extreme weather protocols, in close collaboration with the Sport Medicine Commission.
- Ongoing contribution to the Rules Working Group.

### Summary

- 2024 was a challenging season packed with events including the Olympic and Paralympic Games; Olympic and Paralympic qualification events; the combined World Rowing Senior, U23 and U19 Championships; World Rowing Cups and various continental events.
- The Commission's goals included the improvement of event-related internal processes, close cooperation with other Commissions, and ongoing contribution to the World Rowing strategic objectives.
- The Events Commission will continue to be involved in a wide range of World Rowing's work with a clear focus on the quality of event preparation, in close consultation with the Events Team in the World Rowing office. It will continue its work to provide better support and extend good practice at continental and regional levels.
- I would like to express our thanks to the World Rowing Events Team for their highly professional work and extraordinarily good cooperation with the Events Commission members, and to the other colleagues in WR departments for their committed support.

### 2024 Events Commission Members

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)  
 Joost De Geus (NED)  
 John Hedger (GBR)  
 Pascal Jolly (FRA)  
 Kirsten Meisner (USA)  
 Victor NG (HKG)  
 Bill Schenck (CAN)  
 Jernej Slivnik (SLO)  
 Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

## MASTERS ROWING COMMISSION

Ronald Chen (USA)

The purpose of the Masters Commission is to oversee and promote Masters rowing in all its forms on a national and international basis.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

Activities in organising the World Rowing Masters Regatta

The 2024 World Rowing Masters Regatta took place in Brandenburg Germany on September 11-15, 2024. A total of 3,644 rowers from 51 countries competing on the Beetzsee Regatta Course, making it the largest regatta organized by World Rowing in 2024.

The very successful event featured approximately 680 races over five days, with starts every three minutes. There were over 14,000 seat entries, and the WRMR has now fully returned to the level of participation that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic. Athletes ranged widely in age, with the oldest male participant being 98 years old and the oldest female rower 89 years old. As has become an annual tradition, a special group of 117 athletes over 80 years old, known as the "Octos," received special individual recognition for their participation.

The commission, with the assistance of World Rowing Staff, engaged in the SEAP process to select the venues for 2026 to 2028. The commission was very pleased with the quality of the bids received and in the end made the following

- 2026: Bled, SLO
- 2027: Varese, ITA
- 2028: Villach, AUT

Activities to establish standard Masters classes in all disciplines of rowing

The commission regularly examines World Rowing's Masters racing classifications, in light of current competitive conditions and growing understanding of physiology. Although we do not anticipate making changes to the categories at the WRMR itself in the immediate future, the commission did form a working group to study the possibility of publishing standard time handicaps that could be used in other international and national Masters regattas in order to encourage more competitive races in combined age groups. We will be analyzing the extensive database of results of recent WRMRs in order to accomplish this goal.

The commission is in regular contact with our colleagues in the Indoor Rowing Commission and the Coastal Rowing Commission, which both conduct events with Masters categories. While classical, indoor and coastal Masters events each have aspects that are peculiar to their disciplines, by sharing perspectives and experience we hope to promote a welcoming and cohesive environment for the Masters rowing community.

Activities to gather dates and locations of key international Masters regattas for the international calendar, and publish information of interest to the Masters rowing community

As further described below, a major initiative that was begun in 2024 is the creation of the World Rowing Masters membership, (see [masters.worldrowing.com](https://masters.worldrowing.com)), which we hope to grow into a comprehensive information and communications platform and forum to foster the growth of the Masters community worldwide.

Activities in consulting with and advising the Youth Rowing Commission regarding the Masters Fund for Youth Rowing and the use of the resources of the Fund

The Masters Fund for Youth Rowing was created over 20 years ago and is supported by a €1 per seat contribution from the masters competitors at the World Rowing Masters Regatta, so that older generations of rowers extend a hand to our youth rowers as they enter our sport. The Masters Commission regularly consults with the Youth Rowing Commission on the direction and priorities for this fund. In 2024, for instance, the two commissions agreed that it would be appropriate to use the fund to support youth coastal rowers in appropriate cases.

Activities in fostering the development of Masters rowing generally through shared communications and activities

The World Rowing Masters Regatta has evolved into the largest and one of the most successful international events each year. The task of administering this event and coordinating the efforts of all parts of the Masters rowing community has become one of increased complexity, however, and we are developing new systems to be able to meet these challenges fairly while still maintaining the collegial and friendly atmosphere of the Masters rowing community.

The World Rowing Masters Membership was therefore launched in 2024 to strengthen the global Masters rowing community and enhance the experience for athletes. It serves several key purposes:

- **Competition Access:** Starting in 2025, membership is required for participation in the World Rowing Masters Regatta. This process will allow us to verify competitive data such as age through online verification before the regatta.
- **Community & Networking:** The membership connects rowers worldwide through the World Rowing Masters Portal, allowing athletes to find crewmates and explore racing opportunities.
- **Personalized Experience:** Members receive ID verification for correct age placement, a personal profile tracking racing history, and exclusive event experiences.

### Focus for 2025

We look forward to conducting the 2025 World Rowing Masters Regatta on the 1992 Olympic course in Banyoles ESP. Banyoles had been the designated venue for the 2021 WRMR, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we anticipate an exceptional regatta. We may commence the preliminary stages of this site selection process for the 2029 WRMR, which we anticipate will be focused on venues outside of Europe.

2025 will be the year that we fully implement the World Rowing Masters membership as part of the registration for the WRMR, and the success of this process will be one of our prime priorities. Our strategic goal will be to develop the identity of a World Masters rower who feels connected with friends and colleagues around the world, and one who can take advantage of the tangible benefits of that community.

We are also making expanded efforts to reach out to Masters rowing communities across the globe, and particularly outside of Europe. We are paying particular attention this year to enhancing contacts with the sizable Masters rowing community in Central and South America. We have already had meetings with representatives of the Asian Rowing Federation to explore possibilities of cooperation and exchanges with the growing masters population in Asia. We also continue to derive benefits from the groundbreaking 2023 WRMR in Tshwane, South Africa, the first World Rowing event held on the continent of Africa.

We look forward to renewing the bonds of friendship with the thousands of masters rowers who each year maintain their connection to our sport.

### Masters Rowing Commission

Gary Bain (GBR)  
Ronald K. Chen (USA), Chair  
Inga Daukantiene (LTU)  
Sebastian Franke (GER)  
Santiago Fuentes (MEX)  
Ana Nikolic (SRB)  
Herman van Velze (RSA)

## PARA ROWING COMMISSION

### Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN)

The purpose of the Para Rowing Commission is to support, oversee and promote rowing for persons with an impairment (Para Rowers) on a national and/or international basis.

#### Key Activities and Achievements in 2024

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games marked a significant milestone for para rowing, featuring 104 athletes from 29 Member Federations, competing across five medal events: PR1 Men's Single Sculls (PR1 M1x), PR1 Women's Single Sculls (PR1 W1x), PR2 Mixed Double Sculls (PR2 Mix2x), PR3 Mixed Double Sculls (PR3 Mix2x) [debut of this event], and the PR3 Mixed Coxed Four (PR3 Mix4+). The event delivered exciting and high-caliber racing across all boat classes, with strong performances that reflected the depth and progression of the sport. Feedback from athletes and spectators was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the competitive spirit and inclusive atmosphere of the regatta. The IPC also responded favourably, acknowledging the success of the event and its contribution to the continued growth and visibility of Para Rowing on the global stage.

#### Efficient Rollout of Para Equipment Check:

- The Para Equipment Check process was implemented consistently throughout the 2024 season, with strong collaboration between the Equipment & Technology Commission, the Umpire Commission, and the Para Rowing Commission. As these checks were offered more frequently, athletes and coaches increasingly recognized the value of the process and began to engage more proactively, understanding it as a tool to support their safety and success. This collaborative and educational approach resulted in improved compliance and greater confidence among all stakeholders. Notably, thanks to the early and regular checks during the season, there were no equipment issues reported at the 2024 Paralympic Games.

#### Successful Coastal Inclusion:

- Building on the initial test event in 2023, the Inclusive Mixed 2x (1 able-bodied + 1 para rower, mixed gender) was again successfully integrated into the 2024 World Rowing Coastal Championships. The 2024 edition saw increased participation, and several competitive races that highlighted the inclusive potential of coastal rowing. The strength of athlete performances and positive feedback from both competitors and organizers contributed directly to the event's official inclusion in the Coastal Rowing Beach Sprint event program moving forward. This achievement represents a significant step in ensuring para rowing continues to evolve alongside other formats of the sport.

#### Significant Participation in PR3 Mix2x Event:

- The inaugural PR3 Mix2x event at the 2024 Paralympic Games saw 11 crews from five continents competing, demonstrating growing global interest and rising competitiveness in Para Rowing. Including this event in the continental qualifying regattas provided greater exposure and created meaningful opportunities for broader inclusion, allowing more nations to participate in the pathway to the Paralympics. Additionally, the high-quality racing at these qualifiers offered valuable competition experience for athletes and helped elevate the standard of racing in this new event category.

#### Increased Representation at 2024 World Rowing Events:

- In 2024, 42 Member Federations (MFs) once again participated in World Rowing events, reinforcing the impact of ongoing collaboration with the World Rowing Development Team and the strategic focus on continental opportunities to grow Para Rowing. A key highlight this year was the successful inclusion of the PR3 Mix2x in the continental qualification regattas. This addition received highly positive feedback and proved to be a valuable step in enabling more developing nations to qualify a boat for the Paralympic Games. It underscored the importance of providing accessible, inclusive pathways to participation and demonstrated the potential of this new boat class to expand global engagement in para rowing.

#### Enhanced Communication with the Para and Rowing Community:

- The Para Rowing Commission prioritized increased communication through webinars, coaching conferences, and direct engagement with athletes, umpires, and coaches, fostering knowledge sharing and strengthening relationships within the rowing ecosystem. A closer working relationship with the World Rowing Development Team has further supported these efforts, ensuring we are collectively making the most of available resources and aligning our efforts to grow and support Para Rowing at all levels.

The Para Rowing Commission held regular virtual meetings on a monthly basis, with additional meetings scheduled as needed to address emerging priorities. These sessions included full participation from the Para Commission, along with representatives from the World Rowing Development Team, staff support, and invited guests who contributed subject matter expertise. This structure ensured timely collaboration, informed decision-making, and ongoing alignment across key areas of para rowing.

## Focus for 2025

### Strengthening Para Representation Across All Disciplines

Advocate for the visibility and integration of para rowing within all World Rowing disciplines—classic, coastal, and indoor—to ensure para athletes are meaningfully included in the sport's full development. This includes pushing for consistent standards, accessible venues, and inclusive event formats.

### Enhancing Paralympic Presence and Alignment

Ensure that Para Rowing is not only aligned with, but strategically elevated within World Rowing's overall focus, particularly with regard to the Paralympic Games. The Para Rowing Commission will work to champion a stronger and more visible Paralympic presence, both in the lead-up to LA 2028 and beyond.

### Building Global Participation Pathways

Expand and support sustainable development pathways for Para Rowing across all continents. This includes working with federations to remove barriers to entry, promote inclusive talent identification, and grow competitive opportunities through integration in domestic, U19, U23, Senior, Masters, and Continental events. Across all three disciplines of Classic, Coastal and Indoor Rowing.

### Deepening Internal Advocacy and Collaboration

Establish stronger cross-commission collaboration within World Rowing by identifying a dedicated Para Rowing advocate on each commission. This will ensure para considerations are proactively embedded into decision-making processes across events, coaching, safety, and athlete representation.

## Summary

I'd like to thank the Executive Committee, Council members, and World Rowing staff for their ongoing support of Para Rowing. We've built a positive and collaborative working relationship, with regular engagement that highlights our shared commitment to inclusion across all areas of the sport. Looking ahead, we're eager to continue working together to strengthen our relationship with the IPC and ensure the ongoing inclusion and growth of Para Rowing within the Paralympic movement.

I would also like to extend my deep thanks to the Para Rowing Commission. It's an honour to work with such a knowledgeable, passionate, and engaged group. Each member brings a unique perspective and a genuine commitment to advancing the sport. Our collective efforts this year have been rooted in mutual respect and teamwork, and I am proud to be part of a commission that consistently demonstrates collaboration at its best.

## 2024 Commission Members

Gaurav Dutta (IND)  
Marco Galeone (RSA)  
Hélène Gignoux (FRA)  
Simon Goodey (GBR)  
Monika Kuczma (POL)  
Fred Mallrich (BRA)  
Gordon Marcks (AUS)  
Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN), Chair

## COASTAL ROWING COMMISSION

### Guin Batten (GBR)

The purpose of the Coastal Rowing Commission is to aid and encourage the growth of coastal rowing to support World Rowing's Strategy, to build capacity across the discipline by developing skills, knowledge and experience in a range of areas serving coastal rowing and to oversee and promote on a national and international basis touring and recreational rowing.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2023/4

In 2024, in collaboration with the staff team, a four-year development plan was established to guide the activities of the commission. This report proves progress against this plan.

##### Activities in the field of discipline oversight

New members we appointed to the Commission for the 2024-27 mandate, all five continents are represented.

The Rules of Racing were restructured to formally include the discipline of rowing, incorporating both coastal endurance and coastal beach sprint formats into the main body of the rules. Additionally, the role of Principal Race Officer was introduced as part of the race committee—alongside the President of the Jury and the Race Director—to provide oversight of any racing adaptations necessitated by weather and maritime conditions.

At the 2024 WRBSF the challenge card was tested with beach sprint crews, learnings were taken, and the challenge card has been introduced for the future.

On going collaboration with equipment manufacturers continues to improve the performance, durability and safety of coastal equipment.

##### Activities in the field of competition

2024 World Rowing Coastal Championships was successful held in Genoa (ITA).

- The 16th edition of the regatta took place on the waters just outside the ancient Port of Genoa, on the Ligurian Sea.
- A total of 279 crews representing 638 athlete seats from 32 nations participated, marking the third-highest entry in the event's history. The women's solo event recorded a historic high of 40 entries, with women making up 42% of all seats.
- Medals in the seven events were distributed across 11 nations. Spain claimed the Nation's Cup, while Ukraine topped the medal table with two gold medals.

2024 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals also was successful held in Genoa (ITA).

- The 5th edition of the regatta was held on the black shingle of San Nazaro beach. The 3-day regatta had 244 crews, from 50 member federations competition in 10 events. Women made up 48% of the seats.

- The record-breaking entry (an increase of 38%) combined with a significant weather event just offshore, meant modifications to the racing format in the heats and to the progression. Highlight the unpredictable nature of the sea and jeopardy of the format. Highlighting the difference between classic multilane racing and coastal.
- The medals in 10 events were spread across 13 nations, USA topped the medal table with three golds.

Italy has now hosted six championships (four WRCC and two WRBSF) since 2027, highlighting the nations relationship with the discipline and in helping to guide its innovation and growth. The two coastal championships have only been hosted in the Americas and Asia twice. It would be positive to a wider global spread of hosts and the commission encourages potential stakeholders to reach out to the commission.

Awarding of the 2025 WRBSF to Rio de Janeiro BRA and the 2026 WRCC and WRBSF to Qingdao CHN.

The 2024 World Rowing Tour was held along the southern coast of Cyprus, hosted by the Limassol Nautical Club, CYP.

##### Activities in the field of discipline development

One of the key commission objectives is to establish an international World Rowing beach sprint rowing league. After two years of working with a range of partners, progress has been mixed. The current financial headwinds are making progress more challenging, despite this the commitment to establish a range of global competition opportunities for coastal athletes remains as strong as ever.

Launch of the World Rowing Beach Sprint Technical Delegate training course to raise standards at continental and regional championships. The inaugural course was held in Auckland, New Zealand for delegates from across Oceania.

Eight educators successful completed training in 2024, meaning the new World Rowing Beach Sprint Technical Delegate training course can be delivered in each of the five continents.

In collaboration with the staff events team an updated Beach Sprint Technical Specification was published for aspiring organising committees to help the reduction of cost and complexity of hosting events.

#### Focus for 2025

Preparing the discipline for the 2026 YOG in Dakar and for LA 2028, including modeling of an Olympic Qualification system that attracts smaller nations to be part of 'road to LA28'.

Establish the LA28 Olympic Pool Boats tender requirements in partnership with key stakeholders including the equipment manufacturers, the Equipment and Technology Commission and the Athlete's commission.

Continue to support Continental Federations and MFs to have access to coastal rowing education (coach, event and water safety). Develop a Coastal Water Safety training course for beach-based rescue boat teams.

Develop an open-source timing and results service software for continental federations and MF to use in their events.

Launch the championship attribution process for 2027 and 2028 for both the WRCC and WRBSF.

Continue to work with multi-sport beach games to include coastal as part of their event offer.

In partnership with the Para Commission outline a strategy for the development of Para Coastal.

The 2025 World Rowing Tour will take place in Germany; this will be the last one in the long history of the Tour.

### **2024 Commission Members**

Cam Allen (AUS)

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair

Michel Caplot (FRA)

Chen Chunxin (CHN)

Will Daly (USA)

Sahbi Khardani (TUN)

Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)

Manuel Pita (POR)

Pasquale Triggiani (ITA)

David Hussey (IRL)

Chen Chunxin (CHN), Co-opted member

## INDOOR ROWING COMMISSION

### Filip Ljubicic (SRB)

The purpose of the Indoor Rowing Commission is to promote indoor rowing and support the delivery of the Indoor Rowing Strategy in an expert and advisory capacity on a national and international basis.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Second edition of Versa Challenge in Prague 2024
- Hybrid Indoor World Championships in Toronto 2023
- Continue development and expansion of partnership with Japan Sports Council
- Submission and application for inclusion of rowing at the Olympic Esports Games
- Creation and implementation of Virtual Series for 2025
- Development of new race format for 2025 WRICH held virtually

#### Focus for 2025

- Work towards inclusion and delivery of indoor rowing at Olympic Esports Games
- Launch and promote first Virtual Series
- Support development of indoor rowing membership program
- Launch the rowing machine seal of excellence program
- Develop research projects with the Japan Sport Council
- Look at improvement for the World Championships - in-person and virtual
- Continue working with manufacturers to identify opportunities and promotion within the discipline

#### Summary

In 2024, our second ever Hybrid Indoor Rowing World Championships took place in Prague, Czechia. Bringing together 2,400 competitors across the globe, in-person and virtual. I would like to thank the Organising Committee from Prague and the World Rowing staff for helping deliver an exceptional event.

In Prague, we also held the 2nd Versa Challenge, our exciting and different event format, that requires tactics, strategy and skill to be crowned the winner. We saw some great racing, in particular in both the men's and women's elimination race, some interesting tactics in the sprint pyramid and some huge efforts in the final Chase to win medals.

The Prague World Championships and the Versa in particular allowed the Commission to look at what the potential concept for our Esport could be. In Prague, we welcomed members of the IOC Esports Team to watch and share their views and experience on how we can improve our offering. This was greatly appreciated and formed a significant part in the development of the concept for the Olympic Esports Games.

The IOC announced the types of categories of Esports, and rowing fits perfectly in the Virtual Sports category, which is a combination of physical and virtual environment. For rowing this means the combination of the rowing machine and a virtual environment. Here we have been in discussion with a number of publishers to understand their potential and have agreed a MOU with Ergatta to be our graphics publisher. We are now waiting for more information and details from the IOC regarding the Olympic Esports Games.

Our partnership with the Japan Sport Council (JSC) continues to develop, in March they hosted the first Virtual Sports Forum where we were able to showcase the developments of virtual sport in rowing with our partner EXR. We continue to work with the JSC and are excited to see how together we can support the path "from High Performance to Life Performance".

In 2023 the Commission reviewed the Indoor calendar and part of the review was to create a new event, a Virtual Series. In 2024 the Commission along with WR put forward a development plan and pathway for the introduction of the Virtual Series in 2025. This series is open to all indoor rowing enthusiasts.

Sadly in 2024, we were unable to recommend an attribution to Council for an in-person event in 2025. The strategy and intention of World Rowing is to have in-person World Championships, however as it was not possible the Commission recommended the next best alternative would be to host a fully virtual World Championships to be held early 2025. As part of this process we looked at different competition formats that would be suitable for a fully virtual event. And for the first time, we will have 4 rounds of racing at the 2025 WRICH. We are excited to see what happens in 2025.

As we now go into 2025 we are excited to see the number of indoor rowers continuing to grow and for the possibilities that indoor rowing may become the 3rd Olympic discipline in rowing.

### **2024 Competition Numbers**

World Indoor Championships = 2,400 competitors (+64%)

Virtual Sprint = 7,000 competitors (+12%)

### **2024 Commission Members**

Georgia Beattie (AUS)

Mark Davies (GBR)

Juliette Duchemin (FRA)

Felipe Garcia Pertiere (ESP)

Filip Ljubicic (SRB), Chair

Linda Muri (USA)

Erik Murray (NZL)

Batenga Nakisozi (UGA)

Daisuke Yasui (JPN)

## SPORTS MEDICINE COMMISSION

### Juergen Steinacker (GER)

The purpose of the Sports Medicine Commission (SMC) is to oversee and advise on all medical, health and safety aspects related to rowing.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- WR Event Doctors — Our commission members continued their service at regattas as the WR Doctor in accordance with the by-law to rule 37. The events in 2024 are attached.
  - The water safety rescue demonstration has been moved before the opening of the events course which has extended the WR Event Doctors commitment considerably (in terms of days per event)
- Representation — The Chair represented WR at the following events:
  - ASOIF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting
  - 5 Council meetings (online and in presence)
  - European Champs in Szeged
  - World and ITA meeting on Anti-Doping
  - Olympic Games in Paris
  - Sport Accord Meeting, Lausanne
- 7th IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury and Illness in Sport, Monaco, 28.02.-02.03., 2024:
  - SMC chair and Drs. Ackerman, Hiura, Wilson

Byelaw to rule 13 – mens and womens events:

- The revision of the byelaw proposed to the Council included:
  - the principle, that the gender assignment at birth determines the primary gender of an athlete and any changes in gender after the start of puberty need to be evaluated in respect of eligibility of an athlete by the independent Gender Advisory panel. The true report is the duty of athlete and MF's.
  - Every athlete who is not female can start in the men's category, which means the protected gender is female
  - WR sees no need for a transgender category
  - Only MF's or the WR Executive Committee can challenge an athlete's gender if provided reliable information. The Executive Committee forwards this to the Gender Advisory panel, which, after due consideration of all facts, gives a recommendation to the Executive Committee
- The heat guidelines were further updated.
- The cold water policy was updated (MW, LT)
- The concussion policy was updated to incorporate the newly published SCAT / SCOAT 6 (MW, MH, LT)
- Water safety review is a key issue of the next years.

The existing guidelines are in a continuous revision. SMC members in the WR water safety panel are SMC Chair, Prof.Hiura and Dr Wilkinson.

- Injury study on coastal rowing (Dr. Fiona Wilson, Dr. Kate Ackerman)
- SMC Report on Lightweight rowing submitted (Dr. Hiura)
  - Human Research Guideline was submitted to Council
    - SMC reviews scientific proposals for human studies for WR
    - Recommendations for registrations of studies

#### Management

- SMC meetings in 2024: five online meetings
- SMC in-person meeting 24. - 25.02, 2024 in Hamburg, Germany

#### Published guidelines

- Concussion guideline

#### Anti-Doping-Panel (ADP)

- Members of the ADP in 2024: Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, WR Executive Director, Council Member Dr Lenka Dienstbach Wech, Sports Medicine Commission Member Dr Mike Wilkinson.

#### Rules (in preparation of the Quadrenniennial Congress)

- Gender Identification and Sex Assignment:
  - Rule 13 – Men's and Women's Events was revised taking into account fairness of racing for protected disciplines, inclusion, non-discrimination and societal acceptability. The effects are continuously monitored
  - The Gender Advisory Panel is a multidisciplinary group that includes specialists in the areas of gender identification, sex-reassignment, hyperandrogenism, transgender and differences of sexual development (DSD) with chair Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker.
- Rule 14 – Health and Safety of rowers
  - The new rule highlights that health and safety of the participants in the sport of rowing are of paramount concern. This supplements the safety provisions in Rule 48 describing the duties of each member federation to their rowers:
  - The rule also requires that Member Federations nominate to WR a Chief Medical Officer and provide contact data

- In 2024 all Physicians were required to register with World Rowing and their medical registration / license was reviewed and if approved, special accreditation was provided (JH, LT)
- The by-law to Rule 35 now states that it is the responsibility of organizing committees to provide a Regatta Medical Officer who is a medical doctor and to support the World Rowing Doctor. It is now mandatory that the organizing committees appoint a safety coordinator who is responsible for oversight of rescue services and coordination with Medical services and the Regatta Medical Officer.

### Work groups

- Water Safety for Regattas and role of FISA-doctor
- the SMC-water safety group is Prof. Henning Bay Nielsen, Dr. Donia Koubaa,
- Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Petra Zupet, Prof. Konstantinos Ditsios, Prof. Juergen Steinacker
- Coastal rowing (Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Dr. Donia Koubaa, Dr. Larissa Trease, Prof. Juergen Steinacker)
- Lightweight: Prof. Fiona Wilson, Prof. Mikio Hiura, Prof. Henning Bay-Nielsen, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (and two nominees of athletes' commission).
- Para Rowing and injury:
- Physician registration: Prof Jo Hannafin, Dr Larissa Trease
- Safeguarding advisory group: (Prof. Juergen Steinacker, Dr. Michael Wilkinson)
- IOC - Risk management working group with David Zidemann - Dr. Michael Wilkinson

### Publications

- Heat guideline
- Updates to the WR website
- Update of SMC guidelines on cold, regatta health (Cook book), rescue, hygiene and hygienic hazards protocol, water safety.

### Focus for 2025

- The health and safety for participants at WR events will further remain a topic for 2025.
- Water Safety Guidelines
  - Rescue rehearsal ahead of course opening
- WR-Doctor at regatta
  - Newly nominated European Doctors (co-opted to WR SMC)
  - Safety and rescue provision also for continental events
  - WR doctor (European doctor) at all events
- Education (IOC course)
- Cold Water Guidelines
- Accreditation of Member Federation doctors will result in a function at the badge "Team doctor". Will be for Physios in 2025
- The guidelines on Event Safety, Medical and Rescue

Plans, Injury and Serious Events Surveillance and Hygiene measures will be examined in detail. Proposals to improve rescue and safety equipment, such as inflatable devices attached to the wrist, will be analyzed.

- A secondary analysis of pre-competition health screening will be performed.
- Global Health and Development for the health and safety of rowers is on the agenda.
- Educational programs and work with the development program of WR will also continue to be a priority for the SMC.

These activities ensure that the Sports Medicine Commission continues to collaborate with WR Commissions and international organizations to significantly improve the safety and health of athletes and teams, to secure successful outcomes of WR events, and to contribute to the standing of WR as an international sport organisation.

### Members of the Commission

Dr. Henning Bay Nielsen (DEN)  
 Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Ditsios (GRE)  
 Prof. Dr. Jo Hannafin (USA)  
 Prof. Dr. Mikio Hiura (JPN)  
 Dr. Donia Koubaa (TUN)  
 Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker (GER), Chair  
 Dr. Larissa Trease (AUS)  
 Dr. Michael Wilkinson (CAN)  
 Dr. Petra Zupet (SLO)

Co-opted Specialist members  
 Prof. Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (USA)  
 Joanne Harper (GB / USA)  
 Dr. Piero Poli (ITA)  
 Prof. Dr. Fiona Wilson (IRL)

Former chair and permanent guest  
 Dr. Alain Lacoste (FRA)

## UMPIRING COMMISSION

Patrick Rombaut (until March 15, 2025)

Angela ALONSO (from March 16, 2025)

The purpose of the Umpiring Commission is to standardise umpiring and to continuously improve the quality of umpiring in general, in particular at World Rowing Championships, and at international events (regattas, sprints, para rowing, indoor, connected, coastal, etc.) and to promote umpiring throughout the world.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Attendance at Olympic, Paralympic and World Rowing Events:
  - Olympic Games Regatta, Paris (FRA);
  - Paralympic Games Regatta, Paris (FRA);
  - Asian/Oceania Olympic/Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Chung-ju (Korea);
  - European Olympic/Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Szeged (HUN);
  - Americas Olympic/Paralympic Regatta, Rio de Janeiro (BRA);
  - Final Olympic/paralympic Qualification Regatta, Luzern (SUI);
  - World Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE);
  - World Rowing Cup I, II and III in Varese (ITA), Luzern (SUI) and Poznan (POL);
  - World Rowing U19-U23-S Championships, St. Catharines (CAN);
  - World Rowing Masters Regatta, Brandenburg (GER);
  - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, Genoa (ITA).
- Attendance Continental Rowing Events:
  - European Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE);
  - European Rowing Championships, Szeged (HUN);
  - European Rowing U19 Championships, Kruszwica (POL);
  - European Rowing U23 Championships, Edirne (TUR);
  - European Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, Gdansk (POL);
  - FISU Rowing Championships, Rotterdam (NED);
  - African Rowing & Beach Rowing Championships, El Alamein (EGY);
  - Asian Rowing Championships, Samarkand (UZB).
- Attendance International Rowing Events:
  - Bled International Regatta, Bled (SLO); Coupe de la Jeunesse, Racice (CZE); Gent Spring regatta, Gent (BEL); Gent May regatta, Gent (BEL); Head of the Charles, Boston (USA); Prince Albert II Coastal Challenge (MON).

- New World Rowing umpires
- 7 exam sessions were organised in Chung ju (KOR), Genoa (ITA), Gent (BEL), Kobenhavn (DEN), Rio de Janeiro (BRA), St. Catharines (CAN) and Szeged (HUN) with a total of 22 successful candidates (14 female and 8 male - 9 Americas, 3 Asia, 9 Europe and 1 Oceania).
- Retired World Rowing umpires
- 12 WR umpires have reached in 2024 the 70 year age limit.
- Seminars & clinics
  - 7 seminars – 6 physical in Brandenburg (GER), Chung ju (KOR), Kobenhavn (DEN), Poznan (POL), Rio de Janeiro (BRA), St. Catharines (CAN) and Szeged (HUN) and 1 virtual, with a total of 145 participants; a number of online 'educative' clinics (6 x 2hrs), attended by a huge number of potential candidates for future WR and regional exams.
- The 2024 season finished with:
  - 500 WR umpires from 68 national federations (+ 9 WR umpires vs. 2023);
  - 53 national federations having a total of 162 female WR-umpires (+13 vs.2023 or 32,40% of the total number);
- Other achievements of the Commission - participated actively in the Rules Working Group, the GEDI, Safeguarding and Water Safety working groups.
- Membership COPARE, ARF, ORCON, FASA and ER Board and/or commissions;
- Umpiring Commission meetings in 2024:
  - Gent (BEL) (in person);
  - World and European Rowing Umpiring Commission level (virtual) - Monthly;
  - During WR/ER events with the UC-members present.
- Some of the UC members were part of educational and development projects (as the online 6 session umpiring clinics), preparatory site visits or meetings.

### 2024 Commission Members

Angela Alonso Fernandez (ESP)  
 Kristopher Grudt (USA)  
 Ines Hammami (TUN)  
 Nicholas Hunter (AUS)  
 Gabrielle Isenschmid Weber (SUI)  
 Morten Juel Hansen (DEN)  
 Vladimir Meglic (SLO)  
 Jérôme Mouly (FRA)  
 Stefanie Palfner (GER)  
 Takao Senda (JPN)  
 Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Chair

### Personal thanks

At the conclusion of 34 years of membership of the World Rowing Umpiring Commission, from which 24 years as Chair, I like to sincerely thank all members of the FISA and World Rowing family for the trust and the support over all those years.

A particular thank you to all the colleagues, who shared with me this exciting UC period.

Beside the above mentioned persons, I would like to include Borge Kaas Andersen (DEN +), Miljenko Finderle (CRO +), Franco Morabito (ITA), Mike Tanner (HKG), Guylaine Bernier (CAN), Michel Doutre (FRA), Helma Neppéus (NED), Jun Watanabe (JPN), Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Nicolas Ee (SGP), Stanislaw Komornicki (POL +) and Fabio Bolcic (ITA).

Wishing you all a bright future and a lot of successes.

Patrick ROMBAUT

### Focus for 2025

In 2025, the Umpiring Commission will focus on actions directly supporting World Rowing's 2025–2028 Strategic Plan. Our priorities are aligned with the pillars of Participation, Governance, Sustainability, Innovation, and High-Performance Delivery, aiming to enhance the quality, inclusivity, and consistency of umpiring worldwide.

#### Widening Global Access to Training and Exams

We will deliver a well-distributed program of seminars and exams across all regions, including in-person and digital formats. This will allow more umpires to access educational opportunities, reduce barriers related to travel, and support equitable development.

#### Ensuring Consistency in Rule Implementation and Embracing Innovation

The Commission will monitor the application of new rules and ensure a consistent interpretation. We will continue integrating digital tools to improve the delivery of seminars, the management of exams, and communication with the umpiring community.

#### Advancing Sustainability and Gender Equality

We will adopt sustainable practices, such as reducing printed materials and optimizing travel where feasible. Gender balance and diverse representation in juries will remain a key consideration in our selection and development processes.

#### Supporting Jury Performance and Event Preparedness

The Commission will work closely with juries, other commissions and World Rowing staff to ensure readiness through clear guidance, preparatory communication, and active follow-up. We aim to support fair and consistent umpiring at all World Rowing events.

These priorities reflect our commitment to delivering a strong, modern, and inclusive umpiring team that supports World Rowing's long-term goals.

#### Conclusion

The World Rowing umpiring commission will continue to contribute to fair competitions in cooperation with all parties involved.

Angela ALONSO  
Chair (from March 16, 2025)

## GENDER EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CROSS COMMISSION (GEDI CRC) Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED)

The purpose of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Cross-Commission is to oversee and drive delivery of the GEDI Policy and Strategy as it applies to the Commissions.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

The year 2024 was the third year of the Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission (GEDI CrC). With members of all other Commissions and in strong cooperation with the Development team we discussed, planned and took action to get a greater understanding of diversity, and the issues and barriers to participating in rowing.

Cross Commission and Management Group

As per Congress approval the following was foreseen

1. World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission composed of one member from each Commission who would dedicate themselves to implement the defined strategies within the work of each commission
2. World Rowing Management Group 36\* members of staff have dedicated part time to the GEDI strategy within the office to ensure that the strategies are applied in the programmes operated by staff.

In 2024 GEDI had a rhythm of meetings: subsequently we had a chair-manager meeting, a management group-staff meeting and the meeting of the GEDI Cross Commission (CrC).

The CrC had 6 meetings in 2024 which were meant to discuss the why and further on the what (to do) and how (to do it). Diversity can only be of impact if inclusion is well established. As exclusion is a systemic thing, it will take a systemic approach and a change of mindset to reach the World Rowing goals on the GEDI areas: - Race and ethnicity; - Gender equality; - Gender identity; - Physical and intellectual abilities; - Sexual orientation; - Economic status; - Religion or beliefs; and Refugees.

Topics that have been presented and discussed in the GEDI Cross Commission in 2024:

#### Gender Equality

Annamarie Phelps presented the current gender equality policies of the IOC and EOC gender equality commissions.

- World Rowing has made huge steps forward in GE and DI
- Most of it due to dedicated people in the GEDI CrC and other commissions, the Council and Executive Committee.
- Important learnings are that World Rowing has to sustain what has been achieved the past years in relevant rules and statutes, people can change, rules are better fixed.

#### Best practice of International Table Tennis Foundation

Julia Tappendorf and Kushan Palicha of the ITTF Foundation

presented their programmer and actions on inclusion and integration of displaced persons and refugees.

#### Equipment and technology (Conny Draper)

- Current and potential innovations were presented
- Including on oars, seats, food stretchers, boat set up, rigging, and specific innovations for para rowing (classic and indoor)
- Also the effect of these innovations on performance was presented
- Conny stresses the lack of specific female set up of boats and other equipment
- Much can be improved with a better set up of the foot stretchers and shoes
- Questions on innovations that improve prevention of injuries
- Questions on the impact of innovations in the new rules (of racing)
- Questions on the fairness of innovations as not all MF's have equal access

#### Coastal Rowing (Katarina von Kodolitsch)

- Gender balance remains a key target.
- A 2024 success was the requirement that if there are more than two boat handlers, at least one must be a woman.
- Positive trends observed in gender balance and broader continental participation.
- The introduction of the mixed doubles para event in Genoa, with eight participating nations, was noted as a strong start.
- The discipline is not yet recognized in the Paralympics, and discussions are ongoing.
- Major challenge: finding hosts for coastal rowing events.

Resolution: Continue efforts to enhance gender balance; identify solutions to address hosting challenges.

#### Umpiring (Jerome Mouly)

- Gender balance in the Paris 2024 Games Jury was 50/50, but IOC analysis showed lower overall gender representation due to inclusion of all ITO accreditations which in some cases were used by World Rowing for other officials.
- Focus area: Increasing the overall gender balance among umpires.
- Rule changes introduced included that of attire (covering of heads, arms, and legs).
- Ongoing discussions on gender definitions and interpretations in collaboration with the Sports Medicine

#### Commission.

- Chapter 50 rules regarding propaganda and demonstrations on the podium are being reviewed in alignment with IOC diversity, equity, and inclusion principles.
- Regional licensing qualification framework is in development to decentralize umpire training.
- Plans to share statistics on new umpires by region, country, and gender balance.

Resolution: Continue to develop regional licensing and improve gender balance in umpiring.

#### Youth and continental representative Africa (Mehdi Garidi)

- Inclusion of youth in para rowing remains an ongoing discussion.
- Progress made in weigh-in protocols to address previous concerns.
- World Rowing receives positive feedback from different continents on inclusion and diversity efforts.
- Qualification system discussions continue, focusing on increasing quotas, enhancing diversity, and ensuring balanced inclusion.
- Coastal provides an accessible alternative for countries unable to participate in classic
- Youth Olympic Games present a significant opportunity for Africa, as a flat-water event might have excluded rowing due to logistical challenges.

Resolution: Continue discussions on youth para rowing inclusion and qualification systems. Enhance support for coastal rowing to widen participation

#### Indoor Rowing (Linda Muri)

- Gender balance remains skewed toward male participation, particularly at the elite and masters level.
- New indoor rowing format well received, though in-person participation remains preferred over virtual events.
- Minimal media coverage of para rowing noted as a concern.
- E-sport and connected rowing could increase participation, though connectivity challenges remain.
- European-based participants still dominate indoor rowing events.

Resolution: Increase awareness and media coverage of para indoor rowing. Explore strategies to enhance female participation and connectivity solutions for virtual formats

#### Events (Victoria Aguirregomezcorta and Matt Draper)

- Progress made in incorporating key considerations into bid proposals, including on-water and medical safety.
- Para athlete considerations continue to be emphasized.
- Variations in site conditions impact implementation of inclusivity principles.
- Funding constraints limit adaptability for some Organizing Committees (OCs).
- Accessibility support for visually and hearing-impaired athletes remains under discussion.

Resolution: Continue efforts to integrate inclusivity and safety measures into event planning.

#### Communications (Mauricie Summers)

- Write up on women in leadership in rowing will be produced for International Women's Day.
- The article will highlight career paths, leadership experiences, and the significance of leadership roles in rowing.

#### Gender Equality

We continued the work of the former Women's Cross Commission to sustain women's development projects with a specific focus in the areas of coaching and leadership while keeping the gender mainstream approach, promoting equal athlete/coach/coach educator representation at development training and education opportunities and world, continental and regional events.

#### Female leadership

On the leadership side two rowing candidates have completed the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Women Lead Sports (WLS) programme, which supports the development and active participation of women in decision-making positions within Olympic sport organisations.

World Rowing has partnered with Association of Paralympic Sport Organisations (APSO), aiming to increase women's participation and leadership across all levels within the Paralympic Movement, and specifically within the rowing community. In 2024 we assigned 4 talented women to the Women Lead Sports (WLS) programme. This is a series of online leadership courses for women within the sphere of Paralympic Sports Organisations. The objective of the programme is to support their advancement as leaders on national and international levels and to enhance development of the necessary skill set required to serve in elective positions. It also aims to build skills in communication, negotiation, and networking along with developing self-confidence and personal leadership styles.

In addition, World Rowing started the World Rowing Leadership Academy (WRLA) in 2023 which was finalised in 2024. An online Leadership training with webinars and workshops, e-learning, assignments and the availability of leadership mentors. In October 12 participants have started. WRLA aims to increase the number of women in leadership roles within the member federations by:

1. Building confidence and competence in women leaders
2. Developing networks that support women leaders
3. Enabling women to lead with integrity and in line with WR principles and values
4. Embedding strong ethical principles across the organisation
5. Creating a sustainable legacy for the future of women in rowing

#### Female high performance coaches

World Rowing developed the Women in Coaching Toolkit. This toolkit aims to support member federations, coach educators and others responsible for female coaching pathways. This guide has been designed to give you the facts about the numbers of women coaching, the main barriers stopping them from coming into coaching and most importantly to give ideas to help you recruit, develop and retain more women coaches.

In 2024 World Rowing continued the high performance female coaches network (HPFCN) and support the network with an online platform and a meeting at the World Championships.

The aim of the network is to create an opportunity for top female coaches to get to know each other across federations and create a space for shared learnings and support. The HPFCN, builds on the World Rowing Women in Coaching Toolkit, recognising the importance of supportive networks in the development and retention of female coaches at a high performance level.

After the successful pilot WSLA HPC program to support talented female coaches, the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH) has been developed and started in 2022. WISH aims to equip women coaches, who have the potential and ambition, to succeed in gaining roles at elite coaching levels within their sports.

WISH focus on developing sport-specific skills, enhancing career opportunities, as well as enhancing leadership competencies or behaviours. The programme is a joint venture between the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federations, including World Rowing, and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and is delivered over a period of 21-months.

WISH supports Recommendation 6 from the IOC Gender Equality Review Report to encourage balanced gender representation for coaches selected to participate at the Games.

World Rowing is also working to support sport-specific learning opportunities for the coaches with high-performance coaches as mentors, coach educators and site visits. In 2023/24 World Rowing participated in two WISH cohorts with eight coaches in total. Graduation has taken place in 2024 (April and July). Many of the graduates participated as national coach at the 2024 combined u19, u23, non Olympic World Championships in Canada.

The following 2024 Primary Objectives were achieved

- Continuous rhythm of meetings: prep meeting, management group, cross commission
- Learnings from the presentations of several experts in our cross commission
- Experience with several improvements for athletes, in particular for para athletes and athletes with a specific religious or cultural background and LHBTQ+
- In collaboration with the Rules Working Group, improvements for participation of athletes with a specific religious background, in particular head and arms/legs coverings, female athletes weighing
- In collaboration with the Para, Masters and Coastal Rowing Commissions: improving inclusion of para rowing in masters and coastal rowing, by introducing a mixed inclusion 2x
- Ongoing support from the Events Commission and Management and the Organizing Committees, on possible improvements in facilities for athletes, in particular for para, LHBTQ and athletes with a specific religious background
- Plans to share statistics on new umpires by region, country, and gender balance.
- Discuss with the Equipment and Technology Commission on equipment innovations for female rowers in general and for para rowers for indoor and coastal rowing
- Data (WR Membership Survey to support and monitor GEDI objectives)

Special thanks to the World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission members:

Connie Draper, Donia Koubaa, Inga Daukantiene, Gaurav Dutta, Jerome Mouly, Linda Muri, Marcello Varriale, Mehdi Garidi, Katharina von Kodolitsch, Esther Briz, Victoria Aguirregomezcora;

and WR staff support: Monika Briedyte, Maurice Summers, Pat Lambert, Matt Draper, Brian Orsini, Vincent Gaillard and in particular Daniela Gomes and Anna Mguni.

A final acknowledgement to all World Rowing Council members, continental representatives, commissions and member federations for their sustained support throughout 2024.

### 2024 Commission members

Victoria Aguirregomezcora (ARG)  
 Esther Briz (ESP)  
 Inga Daukantiene (LTU)  
 Connie Draper (GER)  
 Gaurav Dutta (IND)  
 Mehdi Garidi (ALG)  
 Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)  
 Donia Koubaa (TUN)  
 Jerome Mouly (FRA)  
 Linda Muri (USA)  
 Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Chair  
 Marcello Varriale (BRA)

## YOUTH ROWING COMMISSION

Axel Mueller (GER)

The purpose of the Youth Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote all areas of youth and student rowing and increase participation across all disciplines, at all levels of performance and across nations fulfilling the goals of our principles defined in Article. 2 of our statutes.

The main objective of Youth Rowing is the development of individuals through the sport of rowing, acquiring experience in self-discipline, determination, commitment, respect, teamwork, integrity and fair play, among others, in competitive events of all kind. Furthermore rowing in youth ages promotes physical fitness and becomes a lifestyle sport.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- The Commission held ten virtual meetings during the year to discuss and exchange relevant information and prepare key points for representing the interests of youth rowing in the Council.
- The commission proposed the introduction of the Rowing Program of the Year Award to inspire a standard of excellence that other universities, clubs, or schools can aspire to, promoting a culture of high achievement, integrity, and continuous improvement in club, school and university Rowing.
- Event support and Management – The chair and two commission members attended the World Rowing U19 & U23 Championships in St. Catharines to assist and advise during the event:
  - A Coaches Meeting was organized to share statistics and discuss relevant items, as well as receiving feedback from the coaches to provide future recommendations to the Executive Committee and other Commissions.
  - Olga Tarasova performed the statistical analysis of the U19&U23 World Championships to monitor trends of future participation.
  - Mehdi Garidi was part of the Fairness Committee and development support and continued to fulfill his role as Continental Representative for Africa.
  - Zhongming Huang carried out the Integrity Booth and did development support.
  - U19 development crews supported by the Masters fund: coach Iza Nalondwa and two athletes (JM1x/ JW1x) from Zambia, and JM1x from Honduras.
- Former Chair of the Commission, Algirdas Raslanas participates in the Governance Working Group.
- Barb Grudt fulfilled her coastal rowing certification.

### Focus for 2025

- to assist and advise at World Rowing Under 23 Championships, Poznan (POL)
- to assist and advise at World Rowing Under 19 Championships, Trakai (LTU)
- to assist and advise at FISU World University Games, Duisburg (GER)
- Fairness and Safeguarding assistance at WR events
- Explore a seeding procedure at U19&U23 WR events.
- Seeking for potential Organizers of WR Youth Coaches Conference
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project: continue support Coach Iza Nalondwa (ZAM)
- Provide YOG Dakar 2026 Qualification System advice and support.
- Monitor statistics and trends in Youth Rowing events, including Coastal Beach Sprints

### Summary

All Youth Commission members are professionally involved in different areas of rowing and youth sport activities on all continents, displaying their wide experience for their tasks in the Commission. They show presence at relevant national and international events practicing networking and reaching out and being accessible for participants and stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Commission members, as well as the national federations, for their proposals and suggestions. Their active contribution is greatly appreciated and a necessary element of our work.

Last and not least my special recognition and gratitude to Algirdas Raslanas, whose leadership allowed us to cope and grow with the new tasks (YOG, U23, FISU) which were incorporated into our commission during his 20 years of chairmanship.

### 2024 Commission Members

Antonio Colamonici (ITA)  
 Jaime Fernandez (AUS)  
 Jennifer Fitzpatrick (CAN)  
 Mehdi Garidi (ALG)  
 Barb Grudt (USA)  
 Zhongming Huang (HKG)  
 Axel Müller (GER), Chair  
 Olga Tarasova (BLR)

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## ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

(Wording from the 2024 Rule Book)

### 1. World Rowing Continental Representative

- Represent World Rowing within their continent
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continent
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities

### 2. Co-opted Members

- World Rowing may appoint up to two Co-opted Members to complement the skills of the Council. The Co-opted members shall be appointed by the Council, upon proposal by the Executive Committee.
- The Co-Opted member of Council is described in Article 42 and the role of the Co-Opted Council Member is defined by the FISA Rule Book, Appendix 5, Bye-Law to Article 47. "The President may assign specific duties to the Co-opted members as required."

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

For 2024, among many key strategic objectives, our focus was on:

- Assisting the teams in preparing their participation in the Olympic Games Paris 2024, through Olympic Solidarity Scholarship, 3 athletes from 3 NFs were assisted, LBA, SUD, TOG
- Delivery of DNSS and education courses to different African MFs
- Boat donation were made to several MFs this will provide more opportunities in the regions.
- Assist with NFs and FASA Governance, significant progress was made toward good governance in FASA
- Organization of the African Championships, improve and strengthen communication with Member federations and NOCs

### Events

During 2024 I attended the following events:

- World Rowing U19, U23 and Senior Championship in St Catherines Canada from where I had dual role, a member of Fairness commission, and assisted the development teams
- Olympic Games Paris 2024, as a Council member and Continental representative, we provided assistance to the 12 African NOCs who participated in the Games, it was also the opportunity to meet with the participating NOCs and other NOCs to discuss essentially development opportunities.
- African Rowing Championships and African Beach Sprint Championships in, Alalmein, Egypt 07-11 November 2024 11 NFs participated, development support was provided to 4 of them. This event featured Classic and Beach Sprint rowing it was the opportunity for the African teams to race in good conditions, both venues were at walking distance from the hotel.

### Development

National Development Activities

Benin - Development of National Sport System delivered and concluded in November 2024 a boat donation shipment arrived in January 2024, this will allow Benin to be a major hub in the West region

- Togo - A Tripartite support program for the National Federation with the support of Wintech
- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, delivered and concluded in May 2024
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System was

organized and concluded boat shipment delivered

- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - delivered and concluded in December 2024
- Djibouti - Boat donation has been made and delivered in December 2024
- L1 Coaching Course, was organized in Malawi, from 24 September to 1 October 2024

### Governance

In term of Governance significant progress were made in 2024.

- Improved governance in FASA, 9 commissions have been activated and structured, 36 members appointed 14 F and 22 M
- FASA General was organized in Egypt during the African Championships 24 MFs attended the General Assembly in person and virtually.
- FASA Council and Executive meetings were held regularly agenda and minutes circulated on time
- Procedures were taken to recover FASA accounts in Egypt while a temporary account were open in Lausanne with the support of World Rowing
- Action was taken to collect the Membership fees, many MFs started paying.
- A strategic Event Calendar 2025-2028 is being put in place to improve planning preparation and delivery, taking into consideration all major events, World Rowing, African, Commonwealth, Mediterranean and other Games which allowing a better MFs preparation and participation.

### Focus for 2025

For 2025 our main objectives are as follows:

- Organize successfully the different Continental events
  - The African Rowing Championships South Africa, November 2025 (tbc)
  - The African Beach Sprint championships South Africa, November 2025 (tbc)
  - The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, October 2025
  - The East Africa Regional Rowing championships in Uganda, June 2025
  - The West Africa Regional Rowing championships in Benin, September 2025
  - The African School Games, Algeria July 2025
  - The Youth African Games, Angola, December 2025
- Assist the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)

- Assist and cooperate with the OCs of the future major Games to be held in Africa to ensure the inclusion and delivery of successful rowing events
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)
- Support important initiatives for continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the WR and FISA Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Assist on the Review process of the FISA Statutes
- Assist on the Organisation of the FISA Ordinary General Assembly 2025, date and location TB

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezorta (ARG)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Successful Olympic and Paralympic Qualification regatta which qualified 10 from 18 NOCs entered and 4 from 7 participating NPCs, for Paris 2024.
- Improved delivery of coastal and Beach Sprints regattas in Lima, Perú and Punta Leona, Costa Rica with participation of para athletes.
- Fostered connections with Member Federations, National Olympic Committees and Governments was stronger and communications were more fruitful towards the development of all forms of rowing and the staging/delivery of new events, with focus on Beach Sprint formats.
- Supported plan development and purchase pathway of coastal boats, featuring coaches and TD education courses.

### Events

I attended the following events:

- Olympic and Paralympic Continental Qualification Regatta, Rio de Janeiro, BRA
- South American Championships, Rio de Janeiro, BRA
- Copa America de Coastal y Beach Sprints, Lima, PER
- Beach Sprints America's Cup, Punta Leona, CRC
- Olympic Games Paris 2024
- World Rowing U19, U23 and Senior Championships, St. Catherine's, CAN
- 2024 Ordinary Congress – virtual

Both Coastal Rowing continental events showcased attractive performance, team spirit and increased participation of regional athletes. The South American Championships followed the qualification regatta, a purposely selected time for optimization of resources, which allowed for greater participation.

### Development

Key development initiatives in the Americas have a significant emphasis on coastal rowing. The sustainable approach towards this, is laid down in strategic plans that accountably address existing challenges, namely financial costs and efficient delivery of training camps, courses and competitions.

### Governance

- Connection with Continental Rowing Confederation was stronger and communications were more regular, particularly on the preparation phase of events.
- Opportunities for discussing strategic goals and calendarization of events was more fruitful ahead of the yearly planning.
- Leadership of Continental Rowing Confederation is not complete, and support and networking are required to strengthen bonds between its member federations

### Focus for 2025

- Continue to encourage updates and inclusion of new policies in all member federations
- Continue towards 2026 YOG/ 2028 OG&PG to encourage development of training, education and race opportunities for all disciplines, targeting best approach for each national context.
- Provide support to Development Team for delivery of education programmes, training camps and mentoring.
- Safeguarding: continue to raise awareness and provide instruments for inclusion of policies.
- Support member federations in the staging and delivery of Coastal and Beach Sprint events, which includes TDs, Coaches and Umpires education as well.
- Participate in COPARE meetings to progress upgrading statutes, reporting and transparency, in view of Asunción 2025.

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA

### Fay Ho Kim Fai (HKG)

#### Introduction

As the World Rowing Continental Representative for Asia and the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) Senior Vice President, I have coordinated with the ARF Executive Committee and World Rowing (WR) to explore competition, training, and coach education opportunities for Asian Member Federations and teams. My role has included attending various meetings and activities relevant to our objectives and closely supporting the WR Development Team in the region.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

The progress on the goals outlined in my previous report on "Focus in 2024" are outlined here:

- **Communication:** Regular communication through emails, virtual and face-to-face meetings, ARF webinars or conference calls has increased engagement with WR Asian MFs. WR objectives and plans have been regularly communicated and more frequent two-way meetings between WR and ARF secretariat has enhanced mutual understanding and exchange of views.
- **Coach Education:** Close cooperation and support to our Development Team in Asia has supported the rollout of World Rowing Coach Education Level One modules in Classic, Coastal, and Para Rowing which in turn have helped to raise coaching and performance standards.
- **Event Bidding Procedures:** ARF event bidding procedures have been gradually reviewed and updated to be more in line with WR. Planning for Event Organiser training is also being developed. Challenges still exist in this area however and there is a need to provide more training and support for new generation MF officials, staff and event organisers.
- **Regional Coordination:** Continued work on better coordinating calendars between World Rowing and Asian Rowing has been undertaken. Opportunities for cooperation with Oceania, with the possibility of National events being opened for visiting international crews are being explored. The South East Asian Games and Championships have also served as a successful model for the development of regional groupings within the continental context.
- **Olympic Solidarity Resources:** Support has been provided to the Development Team in ensuring that the use of resources, in collaboration with NOCs, are focused on committed MFs and athletes. This includes the use of the World Rowing Testing Database for evaluating the training and potential of athletes seeking support.

- **Para Rowing Development:** A number of possible locations for a para rowing regional hub have been identified. Challenges continue to be faced in relation to training and classification however due to limited budgets and separate organisations for para sports in many countries.

#### Events

- Development Training Camp: Chungju, Korea (April 14-18).
- Basic Para Classification Workshop: Chungju, Korea (April 16-18).
- Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas: Chungju (April 19-21) with 19 NOCs and 7 NPCs participating.
- Paris Olympic Games 2024: Paris (July 26 to August 4).
- World Rowing Virtual Congress: (November 16).
- Asian Rowing Federation Congress: Samarkand, Uzbekistan (October 12).

#### Development

- Multiple development initiatives were successfully executed, including training programmes, and workshops aimed at improving rowing and coaching standards and facilitating para rowing development. Regular planning and coordination meetings have been held between the World Rowing Development Team, ARF, regional MFs and other bodies.

#### Governance

- **Main Achievements:** Progress in governance as a member of the Continental Rowing Confederation Executive Committee has focused on transparency and reporting. There has been good cooperation with the ARF Secretariat and leadership who have been working hard with limited resources to seek funding and event hosts.
- **Challenges:** Continued efforts are needed to address the leadership pipeline and the development of female leaders in particular through enhanced education initiatives and support systems. There is also a need to ensure that specialist ARF Committees become more functional and contribute more specific advice and support to the ARF Executive throughout the year in order to further develop a strategic plan for the region.

## Focus for 2025

The primary goals for Asia in 2025 include:-

- Further enhancing competition and training opportunities for federations: It remains challenging to find hosts able to bid for major regional events — in particular because of funding constraints. More education may be needed in the area of strategic event marketing and methods for seeking additional commercial sponsorship. Synergies with WR initiatives and expertise in this area will be very valuable to explore.
- Implementing Level 2 Coach Education modules and Coach Developer training: As the Level 1 Coach Education modules continue to rollout across the region, there will soon be a demand for Level 2. In order to meet this, more Coach Educators/Developers based in the region will be required. Training has already begun with a Regional Coach Educator Course in Hong Kong in October 2024 but further opportunities for trainee educators to co-present or present on regional courses will be required.
- Strengthening coordination of annual calendars and encouraging more Asian federations to host events: With widely varied regional climates and differing competition priorities, it remains challenging to coordinate a consistent annual event calendar and, at the same time, take account of the WR calendar. It is also challenging to find major event hosts due to the budgetary and other reasons mentioned above. Nevertheless, further improvements can be made and it is hoped to focus more on Event Organiser education — including strategic event marketing and promotion strategies and more streamlined event bidding procedures.
- Launch a regional para rowing hub: A number of possible locations have been identified as suitable for development of a regional para rowing hub. This would be a strategic location where a small fleet of para boats would be kept and the organisation of classification workshops, annual training, and competitions would be regularly held. This is considered extremely important if para rowing in the region is to continue to develop and for continued inclusion as part of regional events and Games.
- Further encourage and support the regional development of Beach Sprints: With the inclusion of Beach Sprints in the programme for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games and the 2028 Olympic Games, we have seen a significant growth in coastal rowing in the region. This is strategically important as it offers the opportunity for many new event locations, low cost event planning and new rowing populations in countries and regions where classic rowing has not been easy to develop. It is therefore hoped to organise more regional events and to provide support to MFs in training of coaches and officials with knowledge of this newer discipline.

## Strategic Significance

For 2025, the overall aim will be to further align continental activities with World Rowing's strategic priorities, including the expansion of rowing's presence through a diverse range of events and strengthened development programmes. Focus will be placed on contributing to the parallel growth of all three rowing disciplines—Classic, Coastal, and Indoor—while supporting broader goals around sustainability, governance and regional calendar optimisation. Regional Member Federations will be encouraged where possible to mirror World Rowing's ambitions to create a globally thriving sport.

## Any Other Business

I extend my sincere gratitude to the MFs of Malaysia, China, and Uzbekistan for hosting key events in 2024. Special thanks also to the ARF President, Executive Committee and Secretariat and the WR Development Team for their continuous support.

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE

Dušan Macháček (CZE)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

In cooperation and within the framework of the ERB, we have managed to successfully host all 5 key European Championships in 2024!

Preparation on the organization of the Presidents Meeting in Basel in March 2024 as part of regular consultation with Member Federations (MFs) - the traditional event of the meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries General of the European Federations was successful. Thanks to the organizing Swiss Rowing Federation!

Continuation to improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of World Rowing (WR). There is a safeguarding policy at all European Championships. This procedure is now more and more standard at national competitions in Europe!

Together with ERB and WR Development commission to continue exploring the Erasmus + funding programs. The ERB monitors opportunities in EU programmes and shares them with its members through its information channels. In some cases and applications, the ERC has been directly involved in the application process.

Cooperation with other continental representatives on common themes and development programs. In 2024, we held several formal and informal meetings with other continental representatives to share our experiences and views on current issues from the perspective of our continents.

I have been able to intensify my cooperation with the WR development team, especially where I can use my relationships with representatives of the rowing federations and with the organisers of the European Championships. Through WA and other digital channels, I communicate with key representatives of European federations - important information, questionnaires, comments, calls for participation, etc. A big thank to WR development team and their other colleagues for their activity in Europe.

Europe is a well-developed rowing continent, has a well-functioning continental confederation that works very closely with WR, leader in many aspects - governance, number of various regattas of all levels. All the main WR events including WCups were organized in Europe in 2024 except the multi WRCH in CAN.

#### Challenges & priorities

A great opportunity for the development of indoor rowing are the various digital training and racing platforms for rowing simulators. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find an organizer for ERIC 2025, competitors from Europe could only participate in the virtual World Championships

Coastal rowing development, mainly coaches, umpiring and organising education.

There is a need to maintain interest in traditional classic rowing also by promoting other major international regattas such as the Coupe de la Jeunesse, Baltic Cup, etc.

And to cooperate in the organization of academic and university European championships (EUSA, ...) - an example is the MOU between ERC and EUSA.

### Events

ERIC 2024, Prague, CZE - senior OC advisor, ERB representative

A joint virtual championship together with a hybrid World championship. In the case of Europe, the in-person-only model is proving to work. Strong recommendation for WR - unify ERC and WR age categories.

ERCH + OG Continental qualification 2024, Szeged, HUN - ERB representative

The very well organised European Championships and European Olympic Qualification returned to Hungary after many years.

ERCBSF 2024, Gdansk, POL - ERB member and contact person

The third edition of the European Coastal Championships was held in Poland. The joint programme of endurance races and beach sprints was divided into 4 race days, which seems to be a good and sustainable format for the organisers. The regatta was also complemented by a coaching seminar led by the WR development team.

OG Paris, FRA - Council member, European MFs media contact person

The 2024 Olympic Games were crowned with great performances on the water and full grandstands even beyond the final days. The role of continental representatives was, among other things, to assist the athletes of "their" continents in interacting with the media and journalists.

ERU23CH 2024, Edirne, TUR - ERB representative

For the first time in the modern history of European Championships, a regatta was held in Turkey, this time in the U23 category. The organisers have prepared a new race course on the river in the city, which is a great promise for future international regattas.

Coupe de Jeunesse 2024, Račice, CZE - ERB observer

A very popular and well-attended U19 regatta, designed especially for juniors who do not participate in the WJC. A low-cost and sustainable model without public funding support for the organisers may be inspiring for WR!

From the experience of previous racing seasons, I recommend unifying some of the rules of competitive rowing with WR (age categories in masters and indoor) - some positive changes were already adopted at the last WR Congress!

The recommendation to introduce a master's category also in Coastal Rowing in WR - inspiration from Europe - was also approved at the last WR Congress!

## Development

The successful cooperation within the WR development programme with selected European rowing federations continues.

The following MFs have been included in the development program for 2024 (18): ALB, ARM, BIH, GEO, CYP, DEN, EST, FIN, HUN, LAT, LTU, MKD, MDA, MON, POR, SRB, SLO, SVK.

The following events have been included in the development programme for 2024:

- EROPQR, Szeged, HUN, - invited participation 5 of 9, 56%
- ERU19CH, Kruszwica, POL, - invited participation 2 of 16, 13%
- ERU23CH, Edirne, TUR, - invited participation 3 of 13, 23%
- ERCBSCH, Gdansk, POL - invited participation, 0 of 9, 0% - replaced by Coaches Module
- WRCH ,St. Catherines, CAN - invited participation 6 of 11, 55%
- WRBSF, Genoa, ITA - invited participation 2 of 4, 50%

As can be seen from the above statistics of invited federations and their actual lower participation I recommend to think about the current system of the development program, for example to expand or transform it into coaching modules as seen in the list for 2024 below:

Coaches' modules in 2024:

- Level 1 Classic, Tiraspol, MLD, 14 participants
- Coastal Race Module (CRM), Gdansk, POL, 9 participants
- Coastal Race Module (CRM), Istanbul, TUR, 13 participants

## Governance

- European rowing is represented on the continent by a separate European Rowing Confederation based in Switzerland. It is headed by the European Rowing Board, which is composed of 7 members, 4 of whom are elected directly by the delegates of the European Rowing Federations, 3 others are appointed by the WR and always then approved by the ERC Congress.
- A very few smaller European Federations do not systematically participate in European Championships, and in some cases have problems paying the participation fees. This issue is dealt with by the WR Economics Department.

- Recently we have seen several changes in the leadership of the national federations, unfortunately women have been replaced by men. (ESP, DEN), however I believe that this is not a general trend and that the representation of women in the executive committees of the MFs is increasing!
- In cooperation with WR we monitor the statutes and good governance practices of our MFs, in case there are some partial cases we are able to address them in a sophisticated way.
- Fortunately, the rowing community does not face any significant existential problems in Europe, except for the political situation related to the Russian occupation in Ukraine. In this context, the WR policy that only independent athletes from RUS and BLR can participate in championship events as AIN continues. For 2025 a slight expansion of the allowed AIN disciplines is foreseen.
- A very few smaller European federations do not systematically participate in European championships, and in some cases have problems paying the participation fees. This issue is being addressed by the WR economic department.
- In 2024 we noted a dispute in the Serbian Rowing Federation which resulted in a change of representation of Serbian rowing in the WR through the Serbian Olympic Committee, and a dispute over the nomination of the Serbian crew in the final Olympic qualification in Lucerne, which was also subject to international arbitration.
- As part of good governance within the WR, I would like to recommend to the Executive Committee to invite the continental representative to meetings where useful, or at least to inform him in priority about matters in this field, such as disputes between federations and the WR, or between federations among themselves, etc.

## Focus for 2025

- Maintain interest in classical rowing, in measurable indicators participation in European championships
- Further develop indoor rowing - in particular to find an ERIC organiser for 2026 and beyond
- In coastal rowing, open selected endurance disciplines also for masters' categories - the first attempt will start in 2025!
- Maintain the tradition of holding Presidents Meetings in the coming years as a unique platform for sharing ideas between WRs, ERBs and MFs. A big thank you to the organisers from Gent in March 2025!
- Continuation to improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of World Rowing.
- Together with ERB and WR Development team to continue exploring the Erasmus + funding programs.
- Cooperation with other continental representatives on common themes and development programs.
- I would like to intensify my cooperation with the WR development team, especially where I can use my relationships with representatives of rowing federations and with the organisers of European championships. A big thank you to Daniela Gomez and Maike Diekmann and other colleagues for their activity in Europe.

- To allow non-European crews to compete in selected European club championships - coastal and indoor.

From WR's 15-point strategic plan for 2025-2039, we recommend focusing on these two items in particular in 2025:

- Optimized calendar and attractive events across three disciplines, all year round
- Presence of WR in key global hubs through events, permanent or recurring presence - multi-sport events, like European Games, Multisport Champs, etc.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues from ERB, WR Council and WR Development team for their excellent cooperation.

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

### Sarah Cook (AUS)

#### Key Activities and Achievements in 2024

##### Achievements Against Focus for 2024 Objectives

**Objective:** At least 6 active Member Federations (MF) in Oceania by end of 2024

**Achievement:** Ongoing: Australia, New Zealand, American Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and French Polynesia (not an MF)

**Objective:** Continue communication and outreach to activate dormant MFs

**Achievement:** Ongoing: Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga re-engagement underway; NOC contacts re-established, engagement from Fiji and Tonga during the 2024 Continental activities

**Objective:** Youth Athlete Development Camp (Australia, Sep/Oct 2024) for 2026 YOG

**Achievement:** Achieved: Held in Sydney with 41 athletes/coaches from the Pacific Islands; supported by World Rowing, Olympic Solidarity, Australian Olympic Committee, Rowing Australia, and Rowing NSW

**Objective:** Development in PNG

**Achievement:** In progress: PNG seeking NOC recognition, with provision of ergs. Work still required to develop the program.

**Objective:** Development in Fiji via DNSS with FASANOC

**Achievement:** In progress: Fiji took part in the 2024 YAD and ORCON Youth Development Camp, for 2025, we are currently in discussions with them to activate an MoU to formally integrate rowing in the current outrigger federation and have them hosting the 2025 YAD, this is still in the discussion phase.

**Objective:** Regional Coastal Level 1 Coaches Course, Coastal Race Module and Beach Sprint TD course (New Zealand) Nov 2024

**Achievement:** Achieved: Delivered in Auckland, NZ; with the support of World Rowing, Olympic Solidarity, NZL NOC and Rowing NZ

#### Additional Achievements and Progress

##### Leadership & Governance:

- Duncan Free appointed Chair of ORCON; enhanced regional coordination and development planning.
- ORCON Constitutional review underway.
- Establishment of regular communication between MFs through WhatsApp group and sport development activity such as quarterly virtual indoor rowing races.
- More engagement from Oceania MFs and attendance of the World Rowing MF calls.

##### Program Expansion:

- Ongoing support for Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and American Samoa.
- Cook Islands expressed intent to become a World Rowing MF in 2026.

##### Strategic Partnerships:

- Strong collaboration with Olympic Solidarity, OSFO, ONOC, and Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- Support for Beach Sprints inclusion as a demonstration sport in the 2027 Pacific Games in Tahiti.

#### 1. Events

##### Key Events Attended:

- OSFO and ONOC AGMs – March, Fiji
  - Represented by Duncan Free; strategic advocacy with regional sports bodies.
- World Rowing Regional Coastal Coaching Courses and Beach Sprint Technical Delegates Course – Nov., NZ
  - Delivered in Auckland, NZ; participation from Oceania MFs (ASA- AUS- VAN- TGA – PYF- NZL).
- Youth Athlete Development Camp – Sept/Oct, Sydney
  - 41 attendees from the Pacific (AUS- ASA- FIJ- TGA- VAN- PYF); aligned with Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games; included First Nations athletes from Australia.

##### Issues & Proposed Solutions:

##### Limited equipment access

- Proposal: Target one PIC per year for shared equipment purchase project supported by DFAT/Olympic Solidarity/World Rowing/ONOC to bring boats and required equipment to the

region to support the national sport development pathway aiming to have 4 pics by 2028.

- **Retention and MF capacity**
  - Proposal: Develop structured development pathways and increase administrative support. This is already underway through more systematic communications with the MFs and development of MoUs to create sustainable and long-term partnerships.
- 2. Development
  - **MF Development:**
    - Active support for Papua New Guinea, American Samoa, Vanuatu and Tonga
    - Fiji, Samoa, reactivation in progress
    - Australia and New Zealand building their Beach Sprint programs, and Rowing Australia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Surf Lifesaving Australia
    - French Polynesia running successful programs focused on Indoor Rowing and Beach Sprints
    - Cook Islands in pipeline for possible membership in 2026
    - Outreach to Samoa and Kiribati to understand current rowing situation and potential reactivation
  - **Training & Technical Development:**
    - World Rowing Level 1 Coastal Coaches Course, Coastal Race Module and Beach Sprint TD Training in NZ successfully delivered
    - YAD camp (Sydney) saw wide regional and gender representation
  - **Communication:**
    - Oceania MF WhatsApp group improving engagement and planning
    - Virtual racing series promoted in 2025

### 3. Governance

#### Achievements:

- Establishment of stronger regional governance under new ORCON Chair
- ORCON Constitutional review underway
- Increased transparency and communication among MFs

#### Challenges:

- Limited leadership pipeline, especially female leaders
- Governance education and compliance remain inconsistent
- Delays in statutory reform due to local legal and translation needs

### Focus for 2025

#### Main Goals:

1. Establish permanent Secretariat for Oceania Rowing and close collaboration with World Rowing Development Continental Team
2. Secure Cook Islands as a new WR Member Federation
3. Support MF restructuring in Fiji, PNG and Tonga and integration of rowing in the national sports activities and events
4. Introduce regional indoor rowing virtual competition
5. Expand administration, coaching and technical development within each of the MFs
6. Pursue addition of Beach Sprints in the future Pacific Games

#### Strategic Alignment:

These goals support World Rowing's 15-year strategy, emphasizing:

- Global expansion
- Youth and gender equity
- Coastal rowing innovation
- Sustainable governance models in developing regions

#### Any Other Business

#### • Governance & Policy:

- World Rowing membership fee increase; Oceania supportive in principle but expressed concern over proposed scale, especially for currently inactive MFs seeking to re-engage

#### • Innovation:

- World Rowing Strategic Event Review; focus on ensuring any future event programme considers the global context of the sport, specifically outside of Europe
- Continued growth of the emerging disciplines of Coastal Rowing and Indoor Rowing throughout the region

## CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

As a Co-Opted Council Member, I have been actively involved in all World Rowing projects through the work of the Council, playing a proactive role in shaping the future of rowing and the sport. Our top priority in 2024 was to ensure the best possible year for our athletes, collaborating closely with many World Rowing members, Member Federations (MFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and broader community stakeholders.

This year has been filled with valuable experiences as we sought to promote the values of sport and its potential to positively impact society. Alongside my responsibilities within World Rowing, I have been dedicated to continuous learning and sharing knowledge across various fields to contribute meaningfully to World Rowing's mission.

I firmly believe that advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sport is a direct pathway to global peace. Promoting these values enhances both the societal contribution and global presence of rowing. Leveraging the influence of sport in the pursuit of peace has been a guiding principle in my work.

- Collaboration with Strategic Partners

I actively collaborated and exchanged insights with World Rowing, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), NOCs, MFs, the Japan Sport Council (JSC), and regional stakeholders. This collaboration aimed to elevate World Rowing's role in the international sports landscape, while also addressing the challenges and future directions of the sport. I also engaged with peace-focused service organizations and participated in their initiatives, further aligning sports with social impact.

- World Rowing and the United Nations SDGs

Rowing, by its very nature, affects the people, communities, and environment it touches. As stewards of this sport, we, rowers, have a responsibility to protect everything we touch through our sport, minimize harm to maximize positive outcomes.

- Our specific commitments include:

- Environmental Protection: Safeguarding water quality and aquatic ecosystems.
- Community Engagement: Collaborating with local communities for mutual growth.
- Education and Awareness: Promoting environmental consciousness through rowing.

World Rowing is committed to ensuring rowers and the sport contribute to people, communities, and the environment. We are dedicated to embedding sustainability into our daily operations and positioning ourselves as leaders in the global sports movement.

- Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy

The 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games were a resounding success. As always, each edition of the Games builds upon the legacy of those before.

Key initiatives included:

- Ongoing collaboration with World Rowing, the IOC, NOCs, and MFs.
- Strengthened partnerships with relevant organisations in Japan, governmental bodies and international sports organizations (Government of Japan and Tokyo Metropolitan Government), other countries (NOC), and other sports (NF).
- Information gathering and coordination with the World Masters Games, Organising Committees (OC), and the International Masters Games Association (IMGA).
- Active involvement in preparations for the 2026 Asian Games.
- Efforts to reinvigorate rowing across Asia, in partnership with regional MFs.

- Promoting Connected Rowing

Recognizing the importance of innovation, I have actively promoted Indoor Rowing and Virtual Rowing, and pursued research in virtual sports initiatives in line with Recommendation 9 of the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020+5, a guideline for future Olympic reform.

Key actions included:

- Advancing cooperation following the MOU between World Rowing and the Japan Sport Council.
- Exploring revitalization strategies for Indoor Rowing and Indoor Rowing World Championships.
- Conducting research into the future of connected rowing.
- Consider activities to popularise and promote virtual rowing as a recognized discipline.

- Organizational Development for Strategic Goals

To achieve World Rowing's strategic goals, I supported:

- The development of the World Rowing Marketing Program.
- Initiatives for improved Governance and Sport Integrity.
- Support to the Continental Director.
- Advocacy and exploration of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in rowing

### Focus for 2025

The 2024 Paris Games were a great success, enabling all athletes to perform to the best of their ability. It also was a powerful reminder of sport's ability to inspire. Athletes showcased courage, resilience, and humanity, interacting and making friendships with rivals while determined to work hard towards their goals — embodying the true spirit of the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

As global society, IOC and the world of sport continue to evolve faster every year, we must respond with urgency. Creating a safer, more secure, and peaceful world through sport remains our highest aspiration; we need to urgently aim to create a society where everyone in the world can live safely and securely, and if we can make even a small contribution to world peace through sports, that would be wonderful.

Athletes' performances, rooted in mutual respect and friendship, convey the enduring value of sport, and deepen mutual respect and friendship to transmit the unchanging appeal and excellence of sports for society. It is very important to value the significance and advantages of the sport in society and to communicate the value and necessity of sport.

Diversity, fairness, and integrity of sports are useful to human society. Our gratitude to the "water" that nurtured Rowing and our response to environmental concerns will contribute to society as well as to Rowing's future.

In 2025, our focus will include:

- Enhancing the visibility and value of rowing in society.
- Continuing environmental stewardship and deepening our gratitude for water, the lifeblood of rowing.
- Preparing for future milestones, including the 2028 Los Angeles and 2032 Brisbane Olympics. Rowing disciplines are moving into a stage of development to become a more attractive sport and category with higher quality.
- Developing coastal rowing globally and establishing competition venues.
- Exploring the IOC's Virtual Olympic Games and integrating physically active virtual rowing.
- Strengthening unity within the continental rowing community.

Our mission is clear: to cultivate an attractive, innovative, and globally impactful sport—always with world peace as our compass.

### Summary

As we look ahead to 2028 Los Angeles and 2032 Brisbane, our goal is to create an environment where athletes worldwide can achieve excellence—faster, higher, stronger—together – with courage in their respective fields.

Alignment among all stakeholders is essential. The unity of the global rowing community has the potential to contribute meaningfully to world peace. Our journey begins with enhancing the perceived value of sport, fostering a culture of courage, hope, and ambition that athletes bring to the world.

Rowing, as a sport, must lead by example—educating society about Olympism and promoting a world where people live in peace, wellness, and joy through sport.

I deeply hope that the global rowing family will come together, united in our commitment to world peace, the advancement of sport, and the future of rowing.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the World Rowing staff, Council, Executive Committee, all commission members, stakeholders, and Member Federations for their unwavering support.

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## CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

### Lenka Dienstbach-Wech (GER)

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

- Attendance of the PARIS 2024 Games with the IOC Games Group
- Athletes Rights Steering Committee Meetings
- Board member of the German Olympic Academy
- Safeguarding World Rowing
- Anti Doping Panel
- Member of the IOC Health, Medical and Science Commission
- Member of the WADA Health, medical and research Committee

In 2024, all focus was on the 2024 Paris games. In my role as a IOC Health, medical and Science committee member I was a part of the Games Group who coordinate and oversee the medicals services at the Olympic games.

In my role with the IOC and World Rowing I was a member of the IOC task force for Gender policy.

With this background I was also a member of the world rowing working group who drafted the proposed wording for the participation of female athletes in international competitions. It was, after a consultation with the member federations, changed and adopted by the extraordinary congress in Lausanne 2025.

With the Athletes Rights declaration steering committee we prepared in 2024 the webinars for the athletes to take place in 2025.

I attended the annual in person meeting with the WADA HMR committee. Here we discussed the new prohibited list, appointed research grants and initiated a new grant application strategy forward to allow researchers timely access to funds.

#### Focus for 2025

- Start a new round of education outreaches on harassment and abuse in rowing
- Together with the Athletes Commission, review the implementation of athletes Rights in World Rowing using the implementation guidelines.
- Continue to serve on IOC medical Commission with various projects and meetings around athletes health
- Cooperate with the worldwide health initiative of the WHO
- Candidatature for the position of Vice President in World Rowing

I am pleased to continue to be a part of the World Rowing Council and I am looking forward to assist and help with projects, drawing from my experience both as an athlete but also as a physician to continue to keep Rowing strong and fit for the future.

## AFRICAN ROWING FEDERATION (FASA)

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

As part of the 2024 Africa Rowing achievements, our continent hosted significant number of activities, thanks to the continual support of World Rowing Development team and Olympic Solidarity

The highlight of the season was the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024, and the African Championships, in Al Alamein in Egypt.

2024 was the second year for the FASA board, as our organization underwent a deep reconstruction and reorganization phase, especially on the governance aspects. Among many other, our main objectives were to enhance the governance standards, review the statutes, structure the commissions, address the financial situation.

In summary, the key activities held in our continent are as follows:

#### National Development Activities

- Benin - Development of National Sport System delivered and concluded in November 2024 a boat donation shipment arrived in January 2024, this will allow Benin to be a major hub in the West region
- Togo - A Tripartite support program for the National Federation with the support of Wintech
- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, delivered and concluded in May 2024
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System was organized and concluded boat shipment delivered
- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - delivered and concluded in December 2024
- Djibouti – Boat donation has been made and delivered in December 2024
- L1 Coaching Course, Malawi, 24 September to 1 October 2024

#### Continental and regional activities

- Development Support during African Championships and African Beach Sprint Championship 07 -11 November Egypt 2024, 11 NF participated.

#### World activities

- Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024 12 MFs participated, 10 through qualification process and 2 through wild Card, 3 Qualified to the Paralympic Games with a total of 13 MFs

- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco – 18-24 Mars 2024, a training camp for African nations was organized: 4 countries participated EGY, LBA, MAR, TUN 7 athletes 4 M, 3 F
- Development Training Camp and World U23 and U19 Championships – St Catherines , Canada 16-25 August 2024 3 African NFs participated TUN, ZAM, RSA
- World Rowing Development support at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Genoa Italy 3 NFs participated EGY, SUD, TUN.
- 3 athletes from 3 African NFs SUD, LBA, TOG were assisted through OS to prepare their participation at Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

### Focus for 2025

Our main objectives for 2025 are as follows:

- Organize successfully the different Continental events
  - The African Rowing Championships South Africa, November 2025 (tbc)
  - The African Beach Sprint championships South Africa, November 2025 (tbc)
  - The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, October 2025
  - The East Africa Regional Rowing championships in Uganda, June 2025
  - The West Africa Regional Rowing championships in Benin, September 2025
  - The African School Games, Algeria July 2025
  - The Youth African Games, Angola, December 2025
- Establish a sustainable Event calendar 2025-2028 to allow MFs to better preparation, delivery and participation in the different FASA events.
- Assist the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships via OS
- Work in collaboration with ANOCA on development projects and secure new sources of funding
- Assist and cooperate with the OCs of the future major Games to be held in Africa to ensure the inclusion and delivery of successful rowing events, especially: The All African Games in Egypt in 2027 and the Beach African Games in Equatorial Guinea in 2027
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)

- Support important initiatives for continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the WR Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Finalize the review of the FASA Statutes
- Organise successfully the 2025 FASA Ordinary General Assembly, date and location TBC
- Recover FASA membership fees and arrears

Despite the challenges, FASA remained committed to advancing rowing in Africa. The year 2023 marked a pivotal transition, setting the stage for a stronger and more resilient organization.

## AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE)

### María Arge Díez González (MEX)

Americas Rowing is an organization affiliated with World Rowing, established in 1995 with the goal of developing, coordinating, and strengthening rowing across the American continent. It currently has 31 Member Federations, grouped into three regions:

- North America
- South American Rowing Confederation (CSAR)
- Central American and Caribbean Rowing Confederation (CCCR)

Our mission is to strengthen, coordinate, and promote the development of rowing in the region, fostering integration among member countries through the organization of competitions, support for technical and training development, and the promotion of the sport's core values. We promote the sustainable growth of our discipline, ensuring equitable opportunities for athletes, coaches, and national federations, within a framework of collaboration, respect, and sporting excellence.

#### Key activities and achievements in 2024

At the end of 2023, during the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games, and in accordance with our Statutes, the Ordinary General Assembly was held, where the election of the new president took place. The Executive Council 2023–2027 was established as follows:

- President: María Arge Díez González (MEX)
- Vice President for North America: Vacant
- Vice President for Central America and the Caribbean: Ángel Luis García Fidalgo (CUB)
- Vice President for South America: Raúl R. Poletti (ARG)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Álvaro Vázquez †
- Consultant Member – Continental Representative for WR: Victoria Aguirregomezcorra

During the same Assembly, the inclusion of the Central American and Caribbean Rowing Confederation (CCCR) and the Barbados Rowing Federation as new members was approved. In addition, the election of athletes for the COPARE Athletes' Commission 2023–2027 was held, with the following elected members:

- Antonia Abraham (CHI)
- Alejandro Colomino (ARG)
- Miguel Ángel Carballo (MEX)
- Milena Venegas (CUB)
- Grace Latz (USA)

#### 2024 Events

The most notable events of 2024 included:

- 2024 World Rowing Americas Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta.

Held from March 14–17 in Rio de Janeiro, with participation from 21 countries seeking qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A first COPARE information meeting was also held during this event.

- 2024 South American Rowing Championship.

Held on March 19–20 in Rio de Janeiro, for senior and para-rowing categories, with broad participation from South American countries and invited nations from other regions of the continent.

- I Americas Coastal Rowing Cup 2024

Held from April 22–28 in Lima, Peru, with races in U19, U23, and senior categories, and strong participation.

- II American Beach Sprint Championship

Organized by the Costa Rican Rowing Federation from May 22–27, aiming to develop this rowing modality in Central America and the Caribbean.

- CANAMMEX 2024.

A youth regatta held in Mexico City, involving USA, Canada, and Mexico, with the objective of fostering development and camaraderie among junior athletes.

- 1st South American Junior Rowing Championship – ASU 2024

Organized by the Paraguayan Rowing Federation, this event for athletes aged 16 and under included indoor, coastal, and classic rowing disciplines.

- Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024

There was a historic participation with boats qualified for the Olympic Games from 12 American countries: ARG, BER, BRA, CAN, CUB, CHI, MEX, NCA, PAR, PER, URU, and USA and five American countries in Paralympic Games with ARG, BRA, CAN, MEX and USA.

- Institutional Presence in 2024

Americas Rowing participated in the following events:

- Ordinary General Assembly of ACODEPA – April 20, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- LXII Ordinary General Assembly of Panam Sports – October 2–3, Asunción, Paraguay
- Extraordinary General Assembly of ACODEPA – October 3, Asunción, Paraguay

In March 2024, we deeply mourned the passing of Álvaro Vázquez, Secretary of the Executive Council, whose legacy and commitment to Americas Rowing will always be remembered as part of our institutional history.

### Focus on 2025

- Promote more classic, indoor, and coastal rowing events
- Deliver training on safeguarding and environmental awareness
- Train and update umpires and delegates
- Strengthen governance and leadership among national federations
- Rebuild and enhance our social media and website, improving communication with our members

### Summary

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of COPARE for their unwavering commitment and continued support in strengthening and uniting the rowing community throughout the Americas. Together, we are building a better future for our sport in the region.

## ASIA ROWING FEDERATION (ARF) Chen Chunxin (CHN)

In 2024, the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) continued to make meaningful progress—both on and off the water. From governance improvements and competition delivery to growing participation and enhanced international presence, the year reflected a regional commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive, and globally engaged rowing community.

### Key Activities and Achievements in 2024

Several key developments shaped the year. With the revised Statutes approved at the 2023 ARF Congress in effect, ARF established two new Committees: the Athletes Committee and the Coastal Rowing Committee. The establishment of new platforms for athlete representation and the growing momentum behind coastal rowing—especially in light of its inclusion in the LA 2028 Olympic Games—demonstrated how Asian rowing is evolving in step with the global sport. The expansion of specialized committees also signaled a broader effort to involve diverse voices from across the continent in shaping future directions.

In addition, this year also saw a full calendar of events and initiatives:

#### 1. Regional Competitions

In 2024, ARF faced an early test of coordination when no Member Federation submitted a bid to host the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships. Recognizing the critical importance of continuity, ARF swiftly engaged stakeholders, and the Uzbekistan Rowing & Canoe Federation—backed by its National Olympic Committee—stepped in to host the event in Samarkand on short notice. Despite the tight timeline, the Championships welcomed 95 boats from 13 federations, with strong performances by China, Uzbekistan, and emerging teams across the region.

Besides, youth development remained a key focus. The 2024 Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships, held in Shenyang, China, drew 376 athletes from 19 countries, making it one of the largest youth regattas in recent years and a clear sign of ARF's long-term commitment to developing the next generation of athletes.

Meanwhile, the 2024 Asian Rowing Indoor Championships in Malaysia reinforced the inclusiveness of indoor rowing, with participation from 11 federations. Results from Thailand and Malaysia highlighted the growing competitive spread in this accessible format. In April, Chungju hosted the Asian & Oceania Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta, alongside the Asian Rowing Cup. With 157 athletes from 21 countries and regions, the event reinforced Asia's active contribution to global qualification systems and its capacity to deliver high-level competitions.

#### 2. Global Presence

While the regional calendar reflected growing competitiveness and inclusivity within Asia, international events highlighted how these efforts are translating into results on the global stage.

At the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, 11 Asian nations and regions participated in rowing events. China advanced to the A-finals in both women's quadruple sculls (W4x) and women's four (W4-), finishing sixth in both. Uzbekistan and Japan reached B- and C-finals in the W1x and LW2x, while Kazakhstan claimed first in the E-final of the M1x.

In the Paralympic regatta, athletes from six Asian countries and regions—China, Uzbekistan, Japan, India, Thailand, and South Korea—participated. China won a silver medal in PR2Mix2x, and South Korea placed fifth in PR1W1x. These results highlighted the growing presence and capability of Asian para-rowing programs.

At the World Rowing Championships and the World Cup Series, athletes from China and Japan reached multiple finals and podiums. Japan's performance in LM2x and W2x events particularly underscored its technical consistency and international competitiveness.

#### 3. Development Initiatives

In parallel with competition, ARF worked closely with World Rowing (WR) to expand technical capacity among developing Member Federations. A key highlight was the WR Asia Youth Development Training Camp, held from 5–10 September in Shenyang, alongside the 2024 Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships. The camp welcomed 30 youth athletes and 12 coaches from 9 countries and regions, including Hong Kong China, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, and Vietnam. It featured on-water training, performance testing, and seminars on Olympic values, safeguarding, and anti-doping. Notably, the Iranian delegation included five female athletes and four female coaches, participating as part of a gender equity initiative supported by the Iran Olympic Committee. The camp exemplified ARF's commitment to developing rowing in less-represented areas while embedding principles of inclusion, safety, and excellence.

#### 4. 2024 ARF Congress

The 2024 ARF Annual Congress was held on October 12 in Samarkand. Delegates from 15 Member Federations gathered to review strategic outcomes, confirm committee updates, and discuss alignment heading into 2025.

## Focus for 2025

Building on the progress achieved in 2024, it is time to turn the focus toward the opportunities and priorities of the year ahead – In 2025, ARF will remain focusing on building a more inclusive, competitive, and future-ready rowing ecosystem across Asia.

### 1. Classic Rowing Leads, Coastal Rowing Expands

In the year of 2025, ARF will aim to strengthen its foundation in traditional rowing events while actively advancing the emerging discipline of coastal rowing. The 20Asian Rowing Championships, U19 & U23 Championships, and Asian Rowing Cup will anchor the competitive calendar, providing athletes with structured pathways toward the 2026 Asian Games and global events. Meanwhile, coastal rowing enters a pivotal growth phase. With Beach Sprint set for Olympic debut in 2028, ARF will use the 2025 Asian Beach Sprint Championships (Thailand) and Finals (Zhoushan, China) to foster technical readiness and international competitiveness. Our support for Qingdao(CHN)'s bid to host the 2026 World Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships also reflects this long-term vision.

### 2. More Events, Wider Access

ARF is committed to turning opportunity into access. In 2025, Asia will see one of its most extensive rowing calendars, with several major events across classic, indoor, and coastal formats, as well as youth and para multi-sport competitions. In fact, growth is not just about more events—it's also about more inclusion. To this end, ARF worked with the 2025 Asian Rowing Cup II Organizing Committee to offer accommodation support to eight federations, ensuring athletes from less-resourced programs can participate without financial barriers.

### 3. Safeguarding, Sustainability, Equity and Cooperation

Beyond competition, ARF continues to uphold the values that define responsible sport. In 2025, we will expand safeguards for athletes through anti-doping education, anti-harassment awareness and so on. Sustainability will guide how we operate—low-emission logistics, digital coordination, and venue reusability will shape event delivery. Gender equity and youth protection remain a cross-cutting priority. Regionally, ARF will strengthen collaboration with WR, OCA (Olympic Council of Asia), and APC (Asian Paralympic Committee), not just as partners but as platforms to amplify Asia's voice in global rowing. Joint development programs, technical exchanges, and youth training camps will continue to drive systemic growth across the continent.

## EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (ERC) Annamarie Phelps (GBR)

European Rowing is the confederation of national rowing federations of Europe affiliated to World Rowing. It comprises 46 member federations, including Israel and Gibraltar, and has the capacity to add member groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board of seven members.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting the delivery of World Rowing's and European Rowing's strategic priorities; to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport.

During 2024, the European Rowing Board met formally on 13 occasions, both in person and on-line to discuss preparation of the five European Championship events, governance issues and matters relating to stakeholders and partner organisations. The principle in-person meeting was held in the framework of the European Rowing Annual Presidents' Meeting, Basel, SUI, 1-3 March 2024. Our thanks are due to the Swiss Federation for their generosity in hosting the event and to Sabine Horvath in particular, for her logistical support.

The key priorities and themes that emerged from the discussions were the development of Beach Sprints particularly for those MFs with no, or limited coastlines; a desire to develop indoor rowing as a key new audience for federations; balancing high performance targets with the growth of participation; recruitment and retention of youth rowers and a lack of younger coaches as well as the loss of funding for lightweight disciplines. In addition, federations noted a reliance on government funding for operational and event funding and the need for a new approach to attract commercial partners and review advertising rules to support investment. An updated Strategic Priorities document was drafted with input from the federations' proposed actions.

### EUROPEAN ROWING EVENTS

European Rowing Indoor Championships (ERICH) took place alongside the WRICH at the O2 universum hall in Prague, CZE, 24-26 February. In total 1451 athletes competed in person across 44 medal events in 2000m, 500m and relays. The most popular distance was 2000m with 875 athletes completing the race, 428 raced the 500m sprint and 148 took part in relay races. The largest entry was the men's U17 category with over 100 entries, the categories in the most senior, 70-74 years, age group attracted entries from 13 competitors.

Competitors travelled from across the continent and European titles were won by athletes from 15 different nations – the home country Czechia taking the top medal slot with 10 golds followed closely by Great Britain with 9, albeit generally in the older age categories. Germany and Ireland shared third slot with three each. Many thanks to the Czech Rowing Federation and World Rowing for their support in ensuring a ERICH was possible in the context of the World event.

European Rowing Championships (ERCH) were held in late April in Szeged, HUN, and incorporated the European Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta (EOPQR) within the programme for the first time, offering successful crews a golden ticket to the Paris 2024 Games. It was the first international rowing event at this venue since 1989 and proved a great success. The organising committee had the support of the Hungarian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, the Secretary of State and the Hungarian Rowing Federation. On Saturday the event celebrated university rowing with an exhibition race between local academic institutions.

30 Member Federations competed in 185 crews, including three Independent Neutral Athletes (AIN) crews, across the 22 Classic rowing events, of which 5 were para-rowing events. With an additional 48 crews entered into the EOPQR it was a full programme across 4 days of racing. In the ERCH events a total of 21 different federations shared the medals, with gold medals being taken home by 9 nations and 1 gold won by an AIN athlete. Those with the larger teams dominated the Medal Table: Great Britain taking the top spot with Romania and Italy finishing 2nd and 3rd overall. The Norwegian W2x won their nation's first European medal - gold - in a non-para rowing women's event and Switzerland earned their first para-rowing entry to the Paralympic Games in the PR1 W1x. The finals were available live across many European national TV broadcasters and live-streamed via the World Rowing website.

The 24 mixed-gender crews made up 13% of entries with Women's entries at 35% and Men's crews at 52% showing that there is still opportunity for the European nations to improve the continental gender balance.

At the General Assembly the Rules, regulations and Bye-Laws of European Rowing were updated, including new categories for Masters in Indoor and Coastal events. Asuncion Lorient was re-elected to the Board.

European Rowing U19 Championships (ERU19CH) returned to Kruswiczka, POL, where the event made its debut in 2011. The natural and protected lake of Goplo dominated by the historic Mouse Tower, has hosted European Rowing age category championships on three occasions and has an experienced and enthusiastic Organising Committee at Goplo Kruswiczka Rowing Club. Both days racing were live-streamed. 25 Member Federations took part in 14 events with 123 crews, of which 41% were women's crews and 59% men's. 13 nations shared the medal podium although the Romania dominated the Championship titles, with Italy and Greece also taking home gold. Many thanks to the Polish Rowing Federation for their support of two events in this busy Olympic and Paralympic year.

European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprints Championships (ERCCBS) 20-24 June, also took place in Poland, in the historic maritime city of Gdansk, at an earlier date than usual, which ensured the continental event took place before the World event which is a goal for the future. It was European Rowing's most northerly coastal event to date, and the first on the Baltic Sea. The four days of racing at Brzezno Beach proved a success with a 136m long pier alongside the course that allowed for excellent viewing, with live-streaming of all finals.

34 National team crews entered the endurance events of which 32% were mixed crews, 41% men's crews and 27% women's crews. The club entries were excellent with 90 crews competing across 7 events.

The newly announced Olympic discipline of Beach Sprints was offered in 6 events: three senior and three Junior/U19. The 24 crews entered in junior events were exactly 50/50 in gender balance. In the senior events the 56 crews included 32% mixed crews with the balance 41% men's crews to 27% women's crews. In the junior events Italy topped the table winning two of the three gold medals plus a bronze in CJW1x. In the senior events 7 federations took home medals, Spain, Lithuania and Austria each with one gold.

The last continental event of the season in Europe was the European Rowing U23 Championships (ERU23CH). On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish rowing federation European Rowing made its debut in Türkiye, on the recently inaugurated course on the Meritsa River, in the former Ottoman capital of Edirne, 7-8 September 2024. 25 Member Federations competed in 19 events across the Championship, although a number had low entries, with 4 women's events having three or fewer entries. The finals were again available via the World Rowing livestream.

Romania dominated the medal table, taking home 9 gold medals, and the host federation of Türkiye finished the event in second place in front of a large and prestigious audience including representatives of the state government and local region. Türkiye won an impressive 7 medals in total. Following closely after the World Rowing U23 Championships enabled three crews to become both World and European Champions in close succession: Poland in the M2x, Romania in W2x and the Hellenic Rowing Federation's LW2x. 14 nations and one AIN athlete returned home with gold medals.

#### THANKS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to the European Rowing Umpires Commission, ably led by Vladimir Meglic, for their oversight and coordination at events.

We work closely with World Rowing throughout the year and special thanks go to President Jean-Christophe Rolland, the Executive Director, Vincent Gaillard and all the team in Lausanne, especially Jodie Cameron who is a key part of the team.

We would like to thank the European Federations for their continued support and engagement throughout the season and particularly those Federations who regularly bid and host events, without their leadership, and the hard work and commitment of our incredible Organising Committees, events would not happen. Federations' participation at our Championships is essential to provide competitive and compelling racing at all age groups, to give athletes great racing experience and for the broadcast coverage that we all need to continue to promote the sport. The European Rowing Board will continue to monitor entry data and trends and adapt to changing needs to support the growth of our sport at all levels.

#### EUROPEAN ROWING BOARD 2024:

Annamarie Phelps, GBR, President  
 Patrick Rombaut, BEL, Vice President  
 Eva Szanto, HUN, Secretary  
 Asuncion Loriente, ESP  
 Neville Tanzer, SUI  
 Algirdas Raslanas, LTU  
 Dusan Machacek, CZE, Continental Representative

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## OCEANIA ROWING CONFEDERATION (ORCON) Duncan Free (AUS)

The Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON) was established in 2010 by the region's three active rowing federations at the time: Rowing Australia (RA), Rowing New Zealand (RNZ), and the Vanuatu Rowing Association (VRA). In 2018, ORCON was formally recognised by World Rowing as the Continental Confederation for Oceania.

ORCON membership is open to all national rowing federations and NF territories in Oceania that are affiliated with World Rowing, are members of their respective National Olympic Committees, and meet the necessary eligibility criteria.

As of 2025, ORCON's membership has grown to 10 including: Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and French Polynesia under the National Federation of France.

ORCON's Strategic Plan (2022-2027) was completed in 2022 with the purpose of 'Holistic Development, Advancement and Promotion of Rowing in Oceania in cooperation with World Rowing and our Member Federations' with the objective of 'Sport Development, creating sustainable programs, and bringing more events to the region to create new opportunities for more people to engage with the sport of rowing.' The key Strategic Pillars of the Plan include Govern, Develop, Promote and Showcase which meets the evolving needs of the region.

ORCON continues to work in close partnership with World Rowing to expand rowing across Pacific Island nations. Interest from the region has been elevated with the introduction of Beach Sprints into the Olympics and Commonwealth Games back when Melbourne, Australia were announced to host city the 2026 event, but unfortunately was withdrawn from the sport program when the host city was changed to Glasgow. ORCON is also in discussions with the Pacific Games Council with Beach Sprints being a hopeful starter at the 2027 Pacific Game being hosted by Tahiti.

While the implementation of the Strategic Plan has been ongoing, in 2025 there will also be a review and modernisation of the ORCON Constitution which will make membership into ORCON more inclusive and relevant for the region.

Focus over the next 12 months includes:

- Finalisation and sign-off of the ORCON Constitution
- Working with partners to increase beach sprint equipment for our members
- Hold more 'Development Camps' for athletes and coaching/officiation workshops
- Beach Sprints inclusion into the 2027 Pacific Games

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## ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA) Khaled Zein Eldin (EGY)

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

#### Continental and regional activities

- African Beach Sprint & classic rowing Championships, held in Egypt from 7 to 12 November 2024, 5 Arabian countries, TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD

#### World activities

- Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024, 7 Arabian NFs participated, 5 through qualification process and 2 through wild Card, 2 Qualified to the Paralympic.
- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco –18 -24 Mars 2024, a training camp for nations 4 countries participated EGY, LBA, MAR, TUN with a total of 7 athletes
- Development Training Camp and World U23 and U19 Championships –St Catherines , Canada 16-25 August 2024, 1 Arabian NFs participated TUN,
- World Rowing Development support at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Genoa Italy, 3 NFs participated EGY, SUD, TUN.
- 3 athletes from 2 Arabian NFs SUD,LBA, were assisted through OS to prepare their participation at Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- World Rowing Indoor Championships Virtual: 154 participants from 4 Arab Countries TUN, EGY, ALG, MAR

### Challenges for the Future

Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to further promote and develop Arabian rowing.

Our goals are to:

- Working hard to implement the 2025 Agenda and the realisation of the World Rowing strategy
- Further improvement in women's rowing, by increasing the number of female athletes and coaches and competitive level.
- Trying to help the Arab National Federations to participate in the international championships as we must provide assistance with lodging and boats as well as attending the FISA congress to have an effective role in the decision that are taken.
- Encourage indoor rowing and beach sprint rowing in the Arab Countries which don't have a regatta course.

I would like to thank World Rowing who have been supportive to promote and develop rowing in the Arab countries.

## BALKAN ROWING ASSOCIATION (BRA)

Dorin Alupei (ROU)

The Balkan Rowing Association (BRA) is a European regional association for Rowing in the Balkan Peninsula founded in 1973 in Athens, Greece. The Member federations are Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Croatia (admitted in 2022).

The Balkan Rowing Association aims to develop and promote all forms of Rowing, to improve relations between Member Federations and Balkan countries, and to organise the Balkan Rowing Championships each year.

Each member federation hosts the Balkan Rowing Championships by rotation and holds the presidency of the association for the following year.

The Balkan Rowing Association is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers. Balkan Rowing Championships are generally held on the second weekend of September each year.

An Ordinary Congress of the Association is held every year during the Balkan Championships.

BRA Statutes and rules of racing are based on World Rowing rules and all Member Federations shall be Member of World Rowing.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

The 2024 Balkan Rowing Championships has been hosted by Türkiye Rowing Federation on the brand new regatta course in Edirne one week after they hosted European Rowing U23 Championships. With the support of the mayor of Edirne city and Ministry of Sport, Türkiye Rowing Federation set up this regatta course in a very short time. There are 8 lanes on 2000m.

They host over 350 guests. All facilities, venues, and accommodations has been provided by the organizers. The 2024 Balkan Rowing Championships was a real success, and local authorities played an important role. All teams have shared the medals.

During the 2024 Ordinary Congress of Balkan Rowing Association, the following decisions were made:

- The 2025 Balkan Rowing Championships will take place on the renovated regatta venue in Ioannina, GRE.
- For one year until the 2025 Balkan Rowing Championships, the Hellenic Rowing Federation is taking de leading of Balkan Rowing Federation and the President of the Hellenic Rowing Federation, will be also president of the Balkan Rowing Association.

### Administration

BRA consists of:

- The Congress;
- The BRA Board
- The President
- The Secretary General

Commissions:

1. The Coaches' Commission consists of seven members, one from each Member Federation. The Coordinator of Coaches' Commission is appointed by the Congress
2. The Umpires' Commission consists of no less than 5 members, international umpires, no more than one representative per country. The Coordinator of Umpires' Commission is appointed by the Congress.

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## COMMONWEALTH ROWING ASSOCIATION (CRA)

Peter Cookson (CAN)

The Commonwealth Rowing Association (CRA) was recognised as a Member Grouping of World Rowing in 2019. The objectives of the CRA are to foster cordial relations between its members and to encourage partnerships between the national rowing federations of the Commonwealth, for the benefit of Commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities.

The CRA is a non-funded volunteer organization with a total of 36 member federations: Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, England, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Wales, Zambia.

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

In 2023, it was announced that the State of Victoria, Australia withdrew from their commitment to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CG). Rowing in the form of coastal beach sprints was selected to be on the program for the 2026 CG, the first time rowing has been included in the CG since 1986.

In October 2024, the Commonwealth Rowing Association met with the Commonwealth Games staff to attempt to ensure that rowing would be included in the 2026 Commonwealth Games that have been relocated to Glasgow, Scotland. This request was turned down.

The second edition of the Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprints will be held in Barbados from November 21 to 23, 2025. Similar to the 2022 CRA Championships, an educational component is being planned that will include technical official training, technical delegate training, coach training and a development training camp prior to the start of the competition.

## COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE

Garry Harris (GBR)

The Coupe de la Jeunesse, established in 1985, is an organisation that has as its main goal the annual organisation of the Coupe de la Jeunesse regatta. This is a multi-lane international junior (U19) regatta for European rowing federations. Membership of the Coupe is by invitation.

The Coupe de la Jeunesse provides friendly competition whilst respecting others and offers an environment which enables all to perform to their highest potential. For many rowers, attendance at the Coupe de la Jeunesse is the start of their international rowing careers. The regatta offers an event programme with two separate days of racing with event prizes and a team competition for the annual award of the Coupe de la Jeunesse trophy.

Two years ago the Coupe Beach Sprints were established as an annual match for junior (U19) rowers.

The membership consists of the following federations:- Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

Executive Committee:

- President, Gary Harris (GBR)
- Secretary-General, Gwenda Stevens (BEL)
- Technical Advisor, Judit Mezaros (HUN)
- Technical Advisor, Michael Zwahlen (SUI)

### Coupe de la Jeunesse 2024

Racice (CZE)

The Coupe de la Jeunesse 2024 was held at the Racice course, in the Litomence District of the Usti nad Labem Region, Czech Republic over the weekend of 9th to 11th August. This venue provided a world class course and facilities for the racing, and the Organising Committee delivered an excellent introduction to international rowing for the young rowers.

There were 126 entries for each of the two days of racing from all of the 16 member federations. There were 178 girls and 235 boys competing across 14 events each day. The medals were spread across 14 of the nations.

The Neil Thomas Trophy for the most successful boys team was won by Italy, with Great Britain second and France third. The Michel Bugnano Trophy for the girls was also won by Italy, with Great Britain second and the Netherlands third. Italy won the overall team competition and the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy, with Great Britain second and France third.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Members of the Coupe de la Jeunesse, I congratulate the Czech Rowing Association and the Organising Committee on their successful hosting of the Coupe in 2024.

### Ordinary Delegate Assembly 2024

9th August, 2024 at the Racice rowing venue.

Election: Judit Mezaros (HUN) was re-elected to serve another term as Technical Advisor (Facilities and Race Control).

Attribution of events

- 2025 – Vienna (AUT) was the choice of the Delegates. The Coupe will take place from 1st to 3rd August. NB Subsequently, Vienna withdrew and the Coupe was re-attributed to Ottensheim.
- 2026 – Lucerne (SUI) was the choice of the Delegates. The Coupe will take place from 24th to 26th July.
- Bids to host events
- 2027 – Hazewinkel (BEL). The Koninklijke Belgische Roeibond submitted a bid to host this edition of the Coupe as part of the celebrations of the 140th anniversary of its foundation.

### Coupe Beach Sprint Match

Los Alcazares (ESP) 1-3.11.24

The Federacion Espaniola de Remo hosted the 2024 Coupe Beach Sprint Match at Los Alcazares, Murcia from 31st October to 3rd November, 2024. There were 76 entries across the five events from 10 members; Austria, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden. This is a significant increase from the 46 entries in 2023 and an indicator of the growing interest in this discipline across the member federations.

As the Beach Sprints were about to start, the region of Valencia suffered a severe storm which caused devastating flooding, resulting in terrible loss of life and damage to property. Despite the sombre mood in Spain following this tragedy, the Organising Committee and the competing teams responded with dignity and conducted a successful regatta.

On behalf of the Coupe Executive and member federations I have offered my sympathies to the Spanish Federation and I record here my gratitude for the hard work of the Organising Committee and the volunteers who made the regatta a success.

For the second year, Filippi Boats supported the regatta by providing their boats for the competitors and I thank them for their continued collaboration with the Coupe Beach Sprints.

### Future events

- Coupe de la Jeunesse
  - 2025 Ottensheim (AUT) 1-3.8.25
  - 2026 Lucerne (SUI) 24-26.7.26
- Coupe Beach Sprints
  - 2025 La Linea de la Concepcion (ESP) 30.10.25 – 2.11.25

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## SOUTH AMERICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (CSAR)

Raul Poletti

### Key activities and achievements in 2024

Last year saw a significant change for the South American Rowing Confederation with the institutional implementation of the South American Under-16 Club Championship.

This event was introduced with an educational focus, providing novice athletes with an opportunity to experience Olympic, coastal and indoor rowing competitions in a non-competitive environment.

These events have been scheduled until 2027, when we will incorporate education in physical preparation, training seminars, medical practices and athlete experiences.

At the same time, the South American Championship took place in Asunción, Paraguay, alongside the Qualifying Event for the II Pan American Youth Games for junior, under-23, senior and para-rowing categories. Chile was the clear winner.

Notably, the Confederation celebrated its 80th anniversary by holding its Championships without interruption.

We also held the first indoor championship as part of the 2024 Bolivarian Games in Ayacucho, which Chile won.

Courses and exams for umpires also took place, and the South American Confederation now has 102 qualified umpires who can officiate at any rowing event on our continent.

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Financial Result

The overall operational result was + CHF 17'284, which is a slight improvement from the forecasted results.

The financial result of 2024 was +CHF 664'172 due to strong performance of our investments during the year.

### Expenses

Total expenditures for the year 2024 of CHF 6'938'443 is in line with expenses for the previous year (CHF 7'096'155), reflecting a stable and controlled operating environment, however impacted by the ever-growing cost of modern sports governance (anti-doping, safeguarding, compliance, financial reporting, etc) and proactive decisions of investment across our three disciplines.

### Income

The overall income for the year 2024 of CHF 6'955'727 is higher than the previous year (CHF 6'359'301), driven by some positive commercial outcomes and partnerships.

### Balance sheet

At the end of the 2024 accounting period, the total Assets and Liabilities/Funds balance at a level of 20'798'175, with 'total funds' (including permanent reserves, deferred IOC contribution and general loss) amounting to 19'358'141, of which the permanent reserve amounts to CHF 19'419'593.

### Conclusion

The generally positive outcome at the conclusion of the 2024 accounting period, gives us the opportunity to have selected investments in various projects for the 2025-2028 cycle to grow our three disciplines and generate additional revenues where possible. All relevant initiatives are discussed in other sections of this 2024 Congress report and will be discussed further at the 2025 Congress.

## BUDGET FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

### 2025–2028 Quadrennial Budget

Expenses	2025	2026	2027	2028
Governance	614,000	717,000	499,000	717,000
Communications	349,550	364,800	352,184	382,966
Corporate Services & Administration	1,401,032	1,401,532	1,365,482	1,199,350
Development Programme	595,140	598,940	584,216	589,598
Human Resources	2,763,489	2,812,559	2,862,610	2,913,662
Commercial & Broadcast	1,298,834	1,451,306	1,411,144	1,144,656
Event Management	980,000	1,015,500	1,142,150	1,364,650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,002,044</b>	<b>8,361,636</b>	<b>8,216,786</b>	<b>8,311,882</b>

Incomes	2025	2026	2027	2028
Contribution from reserves	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Governance	256,000	343,600	351,200	351,200
Communications	8,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Corporate Services & Administration	842,875	993,050	1,013,050	827,750
Development Programme	143,500	128,500	128,500	128,500
Commercial & Broadcast	1,010,833	1,224,833	1,283,333	1,248,000
Event Management	1,467,175	1,576,600	1,669,100	1,629,150
<b>Total Incomes</b>	<b>7,728,383</b>	<b>8,272,583</b>	<b>8,451,183</b>	<b>8,190,600</b>

<b>Net operational result</b>	<b>-273,661</b>	<b>-89,053</b>	<b>234,397</b>	<b>-121,282</b>
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